

Hammer hits hutongs — going, going, almost gone. **Page 16**



Opera gets postmodern, drops trappings **Page 11**



Fangs for the memories — dental clinic manager shares history of his business **Page 9**



BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY AUGUST 16, 2002

NO. 66

CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

Lottery buyers to benefit from upcoming regulation overhaul

By Xiao Rong

He could have been a millionaire.

The one-million-yuan (\$121,000) prize he missed is the largest since the first city Sports Lottery in May 2000.

Chen, who didn't reveal his full name, called *Beijing Evening News* on Monday morning claiming he held the winning ticket to the No.02053 Beijing Sports Lottery, but had failed to claim his reward before the deadline last Friday.

"I bought the ticket a month ago," said Chen. "But I didn't expect to be lucky enough to be the top prize winner until I read the local newspaper."

Chen, a printing press repairman for five years, said he had already thrown the ticket away after the first round of prizes was announced. He was unaware a second round existed.

Even if he had managed to find the ticket, it was too late. The one-million-yuan prize had already been transferred to the adjustment fund of the Sports Lottery.

Shortcut to riches

For a man who had just burned a million kuai, Chen seemed unfazed.

Instead, he said he would continue to buy lottery tickets, his hobby of three years.

A 40-year-old peasant from Shanxi Province got luckier than Chen.

"Mr. Zhang" according to city media, scooped 5 million yuan (\$625,000) at the Welfare Lottery in Shanxi this month.

"I only occasionally bought lottery tickets with the money I squeezed from daily expenses," said Zhang, "hoping one day I would hit the jackpot."

He produced the ticket and his ID card from a plain cloth bag.

"Now I can help my parents get medical treatment and I will send my children back to school to continue their studies."

In today's China every day five ordinary people like Zhang become rich overnight. Stories with headlines like "Laid-off worker from Sichuan Province wins 5 million yuan", "Coal miner scoops 3.15 million yuan" and "Laborer's luck brings millions of yuan" occupy professional lottery websites in the country.

More than 1,000 people became millionaires through last year's China welfare lottery. China had 817 sports lottery winners of over one million yuan last year, of which 354 are five-million-yuan winners.

Industry ideals

Zhang Guoxin, 45, last May managed to steal into a Hubei sports lottery office and inject sand and glue into eight numbered balls.

As the lucky number blower rotated, eight balls obstinately sat at the bottom. Angry lottery buyers demanded an official explanation and finally, Zhang was imprisoned for "damaging production" in December last year.

His lawyer claimed the punishment untenable as China has no specific lottery law. The case highlighted a key problem for China's lottery industry.

A draft Lottery Regulation has been prepared by the Ministry of Fi-



A buyer looks to get lucky at Shuang'an Market.

Photo by Jiang Wei

'Most people are neither very greedy nor totally unselfish. They're looking for a little thrill while assisting social welfare.'

nance this April, awaiting approval by the State Council.

"The new Lottery Regulation protects the interests of ordinary lottery buyers," says Qiu Jiangtao, director of Lottery Administration Office of the Ministry of Finance.

Clean fun

Gambling is forbidden in China and the state's lotteries provide one of the major sources of fund raising for the country's social welfare programs. Half of the takings are used as prize money, 20 percent cover costs, and the other 30 percent are used for social welfare.

The lottery is sometimes called a "painless tax". Some worry it evolves into gambling if too many are involved.

"A lottery is different from gam-

bling as it acts as a half-for-profit activity, aiming to give vent to the legitimate speculation needs of people," says Yang Jianlong, a researcher from the Development Research Center of the State Council.

He conducted a research program on the booming lottery industry in China in 2000, aiming to help the central government better regulate the industry.

"Most people are neither very greedy nor totally unselfish. They're looking for a little thrill while assisting social welfare."

"The rest are mainly those who hope to get instant riches or those who just play for fun aiming to help others."

To satisfy these various needs, Yang says it is important for lottery industry administrators to diversify promotion as the industry is about to enter a fast-growth period.

"Even though there recently has been a temporary drop in lottery sales, people who are attracted to the industry are accumulating spontaneously," says Yang.

With economic and cultural development, lottery sales in China will reach 84.6 billion yuan (\$10.57 billion) in 10 years, according to the prediction of the Development Research Center of the State Council.

years amounts to 95 billion yuan (\$11.87 billion). Sales of lottery tickets reached 28 billion yuan (\$3.5 billion) in 2001, over 10 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) more than in 2000.

This first six months, however, saw a slight drop in sales volume of lottery tickets, especially the welfare lottery.

"People who come to buy sports lottery tickets have halved these last two months, especially after the World Cup. But people queued to buy tickets after work last year," said a city lottery agent, who declined to be named.

"Lottery buyers in China now tend to be more sensible than during the first lottery fever of the late '90s. That most explains the slight drop in lottery sales," said Yang Jianlong.

"Buying lottery tickets is now gradually becoming a daily routine for ordinary people, not just being regarded as a chance to get rich quick," Yang said.

Avalanche Kills Two Students on Beijing University Expedition

By Xiao Rong

The China Mountaineering Association on Wednesday expressed its "deep sorrow and distress" over the Beijing University mountaineering tragedy, which it said had been caused by "unpredictable and irresistible natural factors".

Two members of a Beijing University expedition died trying to conquer the 7,292-meter Mount Shisha Pagma in Tibet a week ago, the Tibetan Mountaineering Association (TMA) confirmed on Wednesday.

Three are still missing.

The bodies of Lin Liqing and Lei Yu were found by other group members of the expedition. As the frantic efforts began to find Lu Zhen, Yang Lei and Zhang Xingbai, a TMA official conceded the missing students had little chance of survival. Lack of communication had delayed rescue efforts for five days to August 12 when local authorities first received word of the tragedy.

National mountaineering squad coach Luo Shen and former team captain Wang Yongfeng have been sent to join the Beijing rescue team already at base camp of Mount Shisha Pagma yesterday. They are expected to arrive at the site by Friday noon.

The 15-member Beijing University mountaineering team, a leading amateur group in China founded 13 years ago, set up base camp at Shisha Pagma on July 24. With favorable weather conditions, they struck off into the snow field at about 6,600 meters above sea level on August 2, setting up three camps.

The 15 rested on August 3 and on Au-

gust 4, made their final assault on the West Peak in three groups of five students.

Group A led by Lin Liqing climbed the front and were in charge of charting a route for the rest. Group B contacted group A via walkie-talkie at 11 am (local time) on August 7, the last contact between them.

Groups B and C did not receive any message from A between August 8-9. The two groups noted no footprints in the snow fields where they were climbing. They found two bodies 6,700-6,800 meters above sea level before returning back down the mountain.

The university has contacted all the parents involved.

Beijing University student Wang Jianying mourns the loss of her friends.

Photo by Jacky



Lottery: Fast Facts

By Xiao Rong

There are two types of lottery — welfare and sports lotteries — that compete in each of mainland China's 26 provinces and five autonomous regions.

Nobody knows the exact number of buyers in China. Instant riches in the burgeoning lottery industry has lured millions of Chinese.

An official survey indicates more than 60 percent of residents in cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Wuhan have bought lottery tickets. This doesn't include enthusiasts in smaller cities and counties.

China launched its first lottery in 1987, and the total sales of the welfare and sports lotteries over the last 15

Capital Emerging as Hub for Foreign Headquarters

By Chen Hui / Lily Li

With the establishment of the China regional headquarters of Sony Ericsson and Nestle, the world's largest food company last week, Beijing has become host to the most headquarters of multinational companies of any city in the country.

Considering the three investment companies, Yamaha, Sony Ericsson and BP, which have opened headquarters in Beijing this year, the total number of investment companies established by foreign investors in the capital has reached 117, accounting for 60 per-

cent of the national total. Overall, 137 foreign companies have set up their China headquarters or regional headquarters in Beijing.

A survey conducted by *Beijing Today* this May showed 243 *Fortune* 500 companies have established branches or regional headquarters in the capital.

The openings run contrary to the widespread recession of the global economy, as overall foreign direct investment worldwide fell 41.5% in 2001 from the previous year. Statistics from the Beijing Foreign Trade & Economic Relations Commission show 760 new foreign-

funded companies were approved from this January to July, up 20.4% from the same period of last year, and their contractual value climbed to \$2.59 billion, a 47.6% increase. Actual investment rocketed to \$3.36 billion, up 130%.

The real estate, service and retailing and other tertiary industries are the most favored industries by foreign investors in Beijing. Fifteen retail investment projects involving such world leaders as Wal-Mart, B&Q and Group Auchan, are currently under negotiation in the capital.

Policy Forum

Green Cards for Overseas Elite by 2003

By Wang Dandan

According to sources from the Ministry of Public Security, China will install a green card system by 2003 for the granting of permanent resident status to foreign top-level managers, advanced technicians and major investors.

Foreigners given green cards will enjoy preferential treatment, such as visa-free access to the country. The detailed workings of the systems are now under discussion and planning.

The program is intended to attract more elite foreigner businesspeople and investors to China.

At present, Chinese cities including Zhongshan, Shunde, Zhuhai, Shenzhen and Huizhou in Guangdong province, Fushun in Liaoning province and Qionghai in Hainan province are already trying to provide application forms to individuals looking for permanent resident status. The Shanghai municipal government is preparing to set up a green card system on a trial basis this year.

A total of 67 foreigners have received permanent resident status in China since 1989.

Trademark Forms Require Chinese Characters

By Lily Li

Published on August 11 by the State Council, the new "Detailed Rules for Implementation of the Trademark Law," gives specific regulations for trademark registration, covering trademark application, examination, transfer, extension and the protection of intellectual property rights.

The legislation will go into effect on September 15.

According to the rules, trademarks agents must handle application forms entrusted by applicants that want to register for trademarks or conduct trademark-related business, and power of attorney contracts have to be marked with an applicant's nationality.

In another change, all application materials should be typed or printed in Chinese. The public notification and authentication of letter of authorization and other relevant proof documents should be handled under the principle of equity, which means foreign individuals and companies will receive the same rights and restrictions in registering trademarks as Chinese applicants do in foreign countries.

Documents in foreign languages should be accompanied by Chinese translations, and those without Chinese versions will be regarded as invalid.

Punishments for infringement of trademark rights have also been stiffened.

Domestic AIDS Medicine Offers Hope

By Shan Jinliang

In the foreseeable future, China's HIV and AIDS sufferers will have a new source of hope in the form of the medicine Zidovudine, or AZT, now being made in Shenyang, Liaoning province, by the Northeast Pharmaceutical Factory. The company has become the world's third largest maker of the drug.

AZT and its tablet, capsule and powder forms were approved for sale nationwide by the State Drug Administration on August 6, and it is expected to end China's dependence on imported AIDS medicines. Northeast Pharmaceutical Factory, a share-holding subsidiary of Northeast Pharmaceutical Group, is China's third largest medicine producer.

"The price of the new medicine will be considerably lower than that of imported products," said Gou Xilian from the factory's PR department, but he did not give specific prices for the drug. He added his company had turned in its price application to the Liaoning Provincial Price Administration, and hopes to receive approval in the near future.

The world's first anti-AIDS medicine, AZT has been approved in the markets of other countries to treat tumors since the 1950s, said Wu Hao, director of the infectious disease department of Beijing You'an Hospital, which has earned a strong reputation for AIDS treatment. "AZT is one of the over 30 ingredients in the cocktail treatment," added Wu, "that has been universally accepted since 1996."

According to Wu, one year of treatment with the cocktail costs around 30,000 yuan. As only one component of that compound drug, the domestic AZT will not have a noticeable effect on the price of the mixture, which will only drop if foreign drug makers cut the prices of their parts.

Marathon negotiations between the Ministry of Health and the world's top five medicine producers held in January in Beijing yielded cuts in the price of the cocktail treatment. The eventual price for the cocktail will be set through future competition between China's only AIDS-drug producer and international pharmaceutical giants.



The New Face of Advertising

By Shan Jinliang

This durable, 3.2-meter-long digital photo print-out has been a highlight at the ninth International Ads Show, which has been drawing visitors to the Beijing International Exhibition Center since opening this Wednesday. The show will close tomorrow.

Photo by Cheng Tieliang

City Companies Sluggish in Chasing Olympic Gold

By Shan Jinliang

Despite local media efforts to put the spotlight on Olympic business possibilities, Beijing companies seem to be responding slowly to the golden opportunities created by the 2008 Olympics compared to companies from Zhejiang and Guangdong provinces, said Liu Zhihua, city vice mayor, on August 10.

Recent visits by delegations from other provinces and cities may be powerful proof of the vice mayor's words. "Several delegations from outside Beijing have come here seeking opportunities," said Zhang Xing, chief of the software science section of the Beijing Science Commission, "and a Guangdong delegation recently came to look into joining in the city's construction."

Greater potential threats to local

businesses may come from world-leading companies from the US, Australia, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Singapore, all of which have sent representatives to the capital this year, and firms from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

Zhang said that because the specifics of many Olympic projects have not been decided, many local companies and institutions of higher learning are unable to set clear directions for scientific development and investment. "However, some companies have made preparations in that direction," he added. "Datang, a leading domestic IT company is focusing on information service development."

According to the Olympics Charter, franchise sponsors will be accepted in the Games and worldwide bidding for projects will be held. Many Chinese

worry about the chances of local companies to share in the bounty from the 2008 Olympics.

In some high-tech fields, Chinese companies face an uphill battle in competing with international firms. Zhou Kejin, president of Qianlong, a prominent Beijing website, said his company hopes to establish the official website for the Olympics. However, Qianlong, host of the city's official website with support of prominent local newspapers, said it does not have solid advantages over its competitors.

Liu Zhishuo, a senior official with the Zhongguancun IT Professionals Association, said the Zhongguancun Science Park has set up a coordination group with the Olympic Organizing Committee in the hope of bringing more business opportunities to the park's high-tech companies.

New Exhibition Center Seeks Bids

By Zhang Ran

The China New International Exhibition Center in Beijing will invite international bids next month for investment in and construction of its main exhibition halls, a shopping mall and a theme park.

"Bids will be received until the end of this year, and construction is slated to start in the second half of 2003," said Liang Wen, director of the preparatory office for the new exhibition center. "Total investment in the project should be around 11.6 billion yuan."

Liang said his company has been in touch with several local and overseas banking organizations, and he said the loans had to be kept under a certain amount to avoid the creation of heavy debts.

Located in the Tianzhu Airport Industrial Development Zone at Shunyi District, the exhibition center is a key national construction project for the promotion of China's exhibition industry, and is also an important part of the planning for the 2008 Olympics Games. The center is expected to be competed and ready for use in 2006.

Surveys show that the existing exhibition halls in Beijing, such as the China International Exhibition Center, built in 1985, are all running above capacity.

Internet Registration Yields First License

By Shan Jinliang

Yang Xin, vice general manager of the Shenzhen-based Chuqile Children Articles Corp., became the first person to register for a business license through Beijing's online registration system on Wednesday.

Zhang registered his company's Beijing branch in Xicheng District, which opened the city's first online business registration system on June 17. Yang said, "It took only seven working days to handle all the documents related to the business license, which saved me a lot of time."



Photo by Wang Zhenlong

Filing Gets Brand-new Bag in Haidian

By Liang Fengling / Shan Jinliang

Beijing Twenty-first Century Network Technologies has emerged as the first company to take advantage of Haidian district's new "Green passage filing package" services, created to speed filing for approval to start companies and other procedures overseen by the local government, on August 5.

The next day, the company's procedures for contract termination, put into package number 2002001, were completed, meaning the new service sped up normal procedures by three days.

The new service, launched this month is targeted at foreign investors in Haidian District, and its start means all governmental departments involved in checking and approving foreign investment have to complete their work within a fixed time. Those who turn in work later than scheduled will be punished.

Special labels on the outside of the new packages clearly spell out the responsible department, the fixed date for work completion, the date of receipt and the signatures of responsible persons and their leaders.

Mr. Wang, a businessperson who declined to give his full name, said the new filing packages are good news for investors, but also expressed hopes not only foreign investors will be able to enjoy the service.

Top Universities Trim Enrollment Fat

By Shan Jinliang

Beijing University, Tsinghua University and other Chinese top universities have announced they will no longer expand their recruitment scales for new students, overturning a national government plan to expand university enrollments launched in 1999.

Lin Jianhua, dean of Beijing University, says that after years of swelling recruitment, the university has hit its maximum enrollment. He added that building a world-class university should not be based on scale, but on teaching and resources quality, which will be the university's focus over the next five years.

"Our strategy for entering the ranks of the world's top universities limits the number of students we can have," said Wu Zhenyi, director in charge of the student recruitment at Tsinghua University. "The ratios of undergraduate students and graduate students to teachers have to meet

the standard of a world leading university."

He added that the past four years' expansion has in no way affected teaching quality. Other top domestic universities such as Renmin University and Beijing Normal University have expressed similar stances.

In a country with a population of 1.3 billion, only around 13 percent of all children in China are lucky enough to enroll in institutions of higher learning, including universities and colleges, technical training schools and vocational schools.

In 1999, in an attempt to boost the economy and widen the scope of higher education, the Ministry of Education (MOE) launched a nationwide plan to recruit more students into universities and training schools. In four years, the number of university students jumped from 1.08 million in 1998 to 2.75 million in 2002. The ministry hopes that 15 percent of Chinese young people will be able to complete

undergraduate study by 2005.

Swelling student ranks have made university campuses, canteens, gyms, labs and libraries more crowded, and forced professors to take on more students and more classes, as university's infrastructures and faculties have not grown as quickly.

Following this decision by some top universities to stabilize recruitment, the rest of the universities nationwide will have step up their enrollment expansion plans to meet the annual national plan, for at least the next five years.

To improve the resources available to each student, the central government has increased funding for institutions of higher learning over the past few years. "The investment in higher education far lags behind the needs for the development of the national education system," said Zhang Yaoxue, MOE chief of higher learning this January. "Average investment per college student is actually falling."

NetEase Net Profits Raise Queries

By Xu Ying

NetEase.com, one of the main three Chinese portals announced its second quarter fiscal results ended June 30, 2002 in Beijing recently. The Nasdaq listed Internet Company closed at US \$2.25, up 11.9 percent, surpassing its two rivals, SINA (1.81) and SOHU (1.27).

According to company's press release, NetEase takes the lead in making net profits. It made \$4,600 net profits. SOHU claims it made pre-tax profits on July 17. SINA promises it will meet the goal by the end of this month.

The company reported total revenues of US \$4.6 million for the quarter, a 60.7 percent increase over total revenues of \$2.9 million for the preceding quarter ended March 31. Advertising revenues increased to US \$1.0 million for the quarter, representing a 103.5 percent increase over the first quarter of US \$0.5 million. Revenues from e-commerce and other services for the quarter were US \$3.7 million, representing a 51.9 percent increase over the first quarter of \$2.4 million.

While industry insiders do not take this record as a milestone, some consider the progress does not reflect sustainable development but rather a one-off growth. Ted Sun, acting CEO of NetEase admits that the main revenue comes from the large amount of arrears by their clients. Another source of revenue is drawn back from the \$1 million investment to EachNet.com. Finally, an undeniable source of revenue is the \$0.27 million interest on its cash reserves of \$63.8 million.

Kingsoft Wins 4 Million Yuan Contract

By Xu Ying

Kingsoft announced earlier this month it has won a 4 million yuan contract with the Guangdong provincial government.

Kingsoft board chairman Qiu Bojun revealed that the contract includes 4,000 copies of its WPS office software. WPS, Kingsoft's flagship product, once had an over 90 percent market share in China for office software. Due to the challenge by rival Microsoft, its market share decreased to 10 percent. According to government legislation, governments should buy and use copyright software, rather than pirate disks. The potential market is estimated at 8 billion yuan this year, and office software should make up a major stake of this.

A Microsoft spokesperson said that the company did not have a chance to bid for supplying this program. Microsoft announced an increase of 57 percent last year on sales of its office software. Some local governments have bought over 8,000 copies.

At the same time an official from Guangdong Bureau of Information Industry admitted that they decide to choose Kingsoft WPS for its considerable price advantage. He said there had been no public bidding process, but stressed that they did not deliberately exclude Microsoft when they chose Kingsoft.

Legend Doubles Mobile Sales Target

By Xu Ying

After announcing a 15 percent rise in first quarter earnings last Wednesday, sources inside Legend reveal that the sales target for mobile phones has been revised from 500,000 units to one million for the current year.

Up to June 30, Legend has sold 160,000 mobile phones. Legend CEO Yang Yuanqing has expressed confidence in the company's ability to meet the new aim.

Mobile phone business may become the main stream of Legend future revenues. According to China Galaxy Securities' analysis, more and more mobile telecommunications provide Internet data transmission services. "Legend can integrate its advantages and experience in the IT industry and apply them to its mobile phones," said the source.

Samsung Sponsors Asian Games Torch Relay

By Xu Ying

Samsung Electronics is to sponsor next month's 14th Busan Asian Games Torch Relay. President of games organizing committee Soon-Taek Chung and president of Samsung Electronics Domestic Sales Division Sang-Hyun Lee signed the agreement Monday.

The deal names Samsung as the official presenting partner for the torch relay, which will involve some 7,500 runners covering 4,300 kilometers and visit all the major cities, provinces and scenic spots of South Korea.

The relay will start with a dramatic lighting ceremony on September 5, and the flame's journey through South Korea will start two days later, culminating with the lighting of the cauldron at the opening ceremony in the main stadium on September 29.

Samsung has chosen "The Power of Asia" as the theme for its Asian Games programs that include special events and a major hi-tech and entertainment plaza in Busan. Samsung is also running a number of local marketing programs in participating Asian countries and is a sponsor of the National Olympic Committees of nations including China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

CONSUMER INDUSTRY

Pepsi to Back Out of Business in Sichuan

By Yang Xiao

Due to unpleasant co-operation with Chinese partner Sichuan Yunlü, on August 2, Pepsi (China) chooses to deliver the file to an international arbitrator in Stockholm, Sweden, hoping to halt contracts between them and acquire compensation from its partner.

Zhu Huaxu, president of Pepsi (China) says, "We cannot tolerate such a partner without any trust."

The joint venture Pepsi (Sichuan) was a profitable beverage producer among the 15 factories nationwide. It was launched in 1994 with an enterprise under the arm of the Sichuan administration of Radio, Film and Television with registered capital over \$4 million. Pepsi owned a 27 percent stake.

In fact, Pepsi voluntarily invested \$10 million processing equipment and helped the Administration to borrow 15 million yuan in a low-interest long-term loan. After that, Pepsi bought five percent of sharing rights, at a cost of \$2.5 million. So far, Pepsi have poured over \$20 million into the joint venture.

Since 1994, Pepsi (Sichuan) has developed with an annual growth rate of 110 percent and its production tops the Asia Pacific area.

The quarrel between the senior management team has been over what strategic plan Pepsi (Sichuan) should follow. Directors from China believe the company should produce tea-based drinks or functional sports drinks, while directors from Pepsi favor sticking with Pepsi's three main brands: Pepsi, 7-up and Mirinda.

The negotiation between the two sides continued until July 2001. Hu Xiancheng, president of Pepsi (Sichuan) delivered a proposal that it will produce its own brand drink to the board. The Pepsi side was not against the plan, but transferred the proposal to the headquarters in the US, which might obtain a result in one year and a half. Hu decides to give up his effort.

At the same time the State Economic and Trade Commission organized a meeting in Chengdu, Sichuan with 14 Pepsi processing manufacturers, and announced that they will unite to fight against the titan Pepsi's one-sided initiative. The move was seen by Pepsi as a betrayal.

In August 2001, the administration decided to break ties with the joint venture and launched a new company called Yunlü. Pepsi (China) sees the new partner as a privately owned company and refuses to cooperate.

Pepsi (China) began to fight back in 1998. It suspected the un-audited fiscal report contained a large amount of faked statistics. It also suspected the Chinese board directors of breaking company regulations by opening a sub-company and committing fraud. It reported the findings to the Sichuan provincial government. By this stage, the cooperation was in tatters.

According to a lawyer for Pepsi (China), China is a participant of the Stockholm Arbitration, which has final judgment on the case. But the course will last one and a half years. Pepsi meanwhile has decided to launch a new factory in Sichuan.



After spectacular commercial promotional wars, Pepsi is still not breaking even.



28-year-old Zhang Hai says he has a good appetite.

Photos by photocom

Auction for Jianlibuao Shares Goes to Zhang Hai

By Yang Xiao

Jianlibao, once one of China's leading soft beverage manufacturers, sold a 15 percent stake for 30 million yuan in Guangzhou last Friday. Zhang Hai, chairman of Jianlibao and vice chairman of Zhejiang International Trust and Investment, the controlling holding company of Jianlibao gobbled up the piece of cake again. Including an earlier deal in January, Zhang Hai now owns over 90 percent of Jianlibao.

The third time auction attracted four companies to pitch, and it took Zhang only five minutes to stitch up the deal. Before the successful sale there were two failed auctions, which were considered so expensive - 45 million yuan and 39 million yuan - that no one showed interest in them.

28-year-old Zhang Hai becomes highlight to media again. In January, Zhang successfully raided Singapore Tee Yih Jia Food Manufacturing merger plan and spent 388 million yuan on buying 75 percent of the stake, while the Singapore company had spent over \$1 million in investigating Jianlibao. Zhang's capability is apparent that he can acquire a profit making company at an extremely low price. Jianlibao net assets valued at 1.1 billion yuan last year, with 87 million yuan net profit.

Jianlibao should have a lot going for it. Its soft drinks are among the best-known brands in China; its logo is ubiquitous at Chinese sporting events and is valued at

over 6 billion yuan; and its fizzy fruit-juice and honey drinks are known as "magic water." Yet in the face of foreign competition from the likes of Coca-Cola and Pepsi, the once proud giant of China's soft-drinks industry is teetering on the brink of ruin. Since Jianlibao was established 18 years ago, the total output has reached 5.84 million tons, earning an income of 36.1 million yuan.

Zhang is a professional capital game player. In 1992, the then 18-year-old Zhang Hai began his career in a Hong Kong investment company. In 1993 he made a high valuation on the Internet industry and registered Vanda Systems in Bermuda. When the Internet hit a depression he quickly shifted his business to the PC field. The two strategic successes made him billionaire. When his company has held over eight listing and 50 non-listed companies, his titles are always increasing.

Now as the chairman of Jianlibao, can Zhang Hai be a better player? Jianlibao has not launched a new business strategy in these six months. According to an insider the further integration will cost 200-300 million yuan. Observers foretell Zhang may sell Jianlibao again and recoup his investment. The first step is, on March 23, one of Zhang Hai's holding companies, China High-tech (600730), released an announcement saying that it had bought 90 percent of Jianlibao Pharmaceutical, Jianlibao's sub company.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Zhongxing Aims for First A to H Share Listing

By Zhao Yijiang

After a precipitous decline of 30 percent in the last twenty days, Zhongxing Telecommunications Equipment Corporation (SZSE:000063) closed at a historic low of 17.74 yuan on Tuesday. The stock was plunged into panic following an announcement by the company on July 19 of a new IPO plan in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange for the fourth quarter this year.

Key step for internationalization

As one of China's biggest telecom product makers, ZTE hopes to become an important global player in the industry by listing in Hong Kong. With the development of its oversea business, the demand of foreign currency could not be satisfied under the mainland's rigid controls on foreign currency.

The launch of H shares would benefit the company on acquiring more market share in the international competition, attracting more talents and raising money for research and development, strategic acquisitions and operating capital, an insider from the company said.

As for the recent performance of the stock, "We have patience on the wave of our stock. There are no financial problems in the company. On the contrary, the development of our business is healthy and rapid," said Wei Zaisheng, chief financial officer. The plan needs to be reviewed in the temporary shareholders' meeting next Tuesday.

Opposition from institutional investors

"We will definitely veto the new listing plan," said a fund manager. Most of institutional investors took a strong objection against ZTE's ambitious fund raising project. There are two issues worrying fund managers: the profit per share and the IPO price.

The announcement did not give a size of the IPO, but said it would issue no more than 166.8 million shares, 30 percent of the firm's

total shares to foreign investors. The blue chip's profits per share received by stockholders will decrease after it goes public. Furthermore, investors in the Hong Kong market would pay less to buy shares of ZTE, as far as the lower P/E ratio of H share and the collapse of telecoms industry is concerned.

Although the final offer price would be subject to market conditions, analysts predict the final price would be 10 to 16 yuan per share, compared to 32.7 yuan when ZTE expanded its shares last year.

So the same stock of the same firm would sell at a relatively low price, upsetting the current shareholders, especially the institutional investors, who hold 12.77 percent of the transferable stock.

From A to H

It seemed that the ZTE's A share to H share model would be copied by many listing company in mainland after a more restricting regulation on expanding the share announced by the CSRC on June 24. There is no legal obstacle for A share companies to launch H shares. They could make the decision themselves. The government would neither encourage nor discourage them, an official told *Economic Times*.

The Hong Kong government is always opening its arms to welcome mainland companies to list in Hong Kong. "We will provide a very efficient capital market. They could come here for listing," said Antony Leung, financial secretary.

But the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has its own rules. Eligible companies must be in line with regulations on information disclosure, corporate governance, auditing rules and so on. "The A to H model won't become a new tendency in the near future. It is more tempting for companies to go public here and most of them couldn't reach the strict level of oversea listing," said Li Chunli, a senior manager of Weijing Investment Consulting Company.

SWEAR IT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (AP) - In a year of massive accounting scandals, huge bankruptcies, handcuffed company executives, horrified investors - and the conviction of accounting firm Arthur Andersen - Aug. 14 can be considered a day of reckoning.

That's the government's deadline for many of the nation's largest companies to submit sworn statements from their chief executive and chief financial officers certifying the accuracy of recent financial reports - an unprecedented move designed to help restore investor confidence.

(Marcy Gordon)

Stocks Soar as Firms Vouch for Results

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (Reuters) - Stocks soared on Wednesday, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its highest level in a month, as corporate America's mad dash to vouch for financial results eased widespread fears of financial skull-duggery.

"Everyone's been worried about these companies," said Todd Leone, head of listed trading for SG Cowen Securities.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has required executives at nearly 1,000 of America's largest companies to sign off on financial statements on or soon after Aug. 14 as corporate scandals roil Wall Street.

The stock market also got a shot in

the arm as cash started to flow back into shares from the Treasury market. Bond yields early in the session touched their lowest levels since 1963, prompting some investors to cash in on recent gains.

(Chelsea Emery)

Analysts' Take:

Mr. Chen Gang, Chairman, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Beijing

The corporate financial scandals in the US have sent shockwaves throughout the world. People cannot help wondering how this could happen in a market system that emphasizes reputation and fair competition.

Fortunately, the US government has realized that self-discipline by companies is far from enough to maintain market order. At the same time, I think the Bush administration has its own political motives for implementing the "swear requiring" measure.

First, the government needs to restore investor confidence, which is of critical importance to the economic growth of any

country.

Secondly, the Bush government is preparing for an attack against Iraq. To make sure those preparations go smoothly, Bush has to calm the turmoil in his backyard.

Thirdly, in the business circle, no investors want to see any more such problems, but in fact, more and more companies have been found to have falsified financial reports. No other country wants to see any more either, because they are more or less connected with the economic locomotive of the US.

China has no need to introduce this kind of policy now, even though we have many problems of false reports and figures, particularly in the stock market. What China needs most at present is a complete legal system and the rigorous enforcement of its laws and regulations.

Mr. Ding Dang, President, Ping An Insurance Company of China, Beijing

In China, the moon-cake scandal last year led to a similar result. Hundreds of owners of moon-cake companies in China swore together in local media that there

are no problems with the quality of their moon-cake products and they will never use expired and poor quality ingredients for the production of their moon-cakes.

Reputation is the lifeblood of a company, and the means for companies to stand in their industries and markets over the long term.

We have to make it clear which industries and which companies have problems with their reputations before oaths are made. You cannot ask good players to swear unless they want to on a voluntarily basis. Otherwise, it would only breed confusion, dishonesty and mistrust in all of society.

Mr. Du Guizhu, professor, Capital Economic and Trade University

This shows some problems have cropped up in society, both morally and commercially. Hopefully, this will only be a temporary measure, because a healthy and prosperous market economy must have order and self-discipline.

On the other hand, when something bad happens, you have to take some steps to rescue the situation. In the US, a number of corporate scandals involving false financial reports have emerged. Demanding promises from CEO is a correct road that could quite possibly become a tradition in the future. At least, it reminds those senior corporate managers of their business responsibilities and moral duties.

US Airways to Fly under Bankruptcy

ALEXANDRIA, Aug. 12 (AP) - A federal judge gave US Airways approval Monday to continue operations temporarily while it tries to reorganize its finances under bankruptcy protection.

US Airways, the nation's seventh-largest carrier, became the first major airline to declare bankruptcy since last year's terrorist hijackings. The airline said flights will continue normally, and the company expressed optimism that it will emerge from bankruptcy early next year.

Last month, the US federal government agreed to guarantee \$900 million of a \$1 billion loan package the airline had hoped would allow them to stave off bankruptcy. But US Airways executives had always warned that bankruptcy was a possibility even if they obtained the federal loan guarantee. Chris Chiames, US Airways' vice president for corporate affairs, said the bankruptcy will not affect the company's long-term restructuring plan, which calls for cutting costs by \$1.2 billion a year.

The company also said it expects to generate an additional \$200 million a year through a recently announced "code-share" agreement with United that allows the two airlines to sell tickets on each other's flights. The partnership combines US Airways' strength on the East Coast with United's strength on east-west routes.

United has lost more than \$850 million this year, and the Chicago-based carrier retained a bankruptcy lawyer shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The commercial aviation industry has lost a combined \$1.4 billion this year. (Matthew Barakat)

United Says May File Chapter 11

CHICAGO, Aug. 14 (AP) - United Airlines warned Wednesday that it will file for bankruptcy court protection this fall unless it succeeds in lowering costs dramatically through restructuring.

The announcement steps up the pressure on unions that so far have balked at pay cuts United says are necessary to stem massive losses. The warning came three days after US Airways filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and a day after American Airlines announced severe cutbacks.

"Unless we lower our costs dramatically, filing for bankruptcy protection will be the only way we can ensure the company's future and the continued operation of our airline," Jack Creighton, chairman and CEO of United parent UAL Corp., said in a statement.

(Dave Carpenter)

Chinese Media Reports

Xinhua News Agency: *United Airlines, the second largest airline in the US, declared on August 14 that it may file for bankruptcy protection if it cannot dramatically reduce its operational costs for the rest of this year.*

Bad news has been pouring out from US airline companies, particularly after the September 11 disaster last year.

Beijing Morning Post: *US Airways has amassed a total of \$7.83 billion of debts against its \$7.81 billion of assets. Its operational deficits hit \$2.1 billion last year, and its struggles have continued this year with a loss of \$500 million in the first seven months of 2002.*

The major flight routes of US Airways are within the boundaries of the US and its international routes cover Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Europe. The company offers no flights to China, so its bankruptcy is not expected to impact the domestic market.



Xinhua Photo



People wait at the entrance of Banco Comercial in Montevideo, Uruguay on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2002. The bank opened its door to repay savings in pesos and dollars to depositors. (AP Photo/Marcelo Hernandez)

Uruguay: A Bright Latin Beacon Is Snuffed Out

BusinessWeek Online

By James C. Cooper/Kathleen Madigan/Joshua Goodman in Buenos Aires

Uruguay has been called the Switzerland of Latin America: a stronghold of financial stability in an often chaotic region. Today, however, it is a case study in contagion - the victim of its reckless neighbor across the Rio de la Plata, Argentina.

The warm waters of Uruguay's beaches and its generous tax and banking secrecy laws have long been a magnet for rich Argentines in times of crisis. So Uruguayan assets became an anchor for many Latin American portfolios.

But the impressive track record came to an end in January, when Argentina devalued and defaulted. That country's strict capital controls forced Argentines to dip into their Uruguayan savings, reducing those deposits by 80% since then. In June, Uruguay floated its peso, which promptly fell by 45%. Panicky investors pushed the country's banks to the brink of collapse, and bouts of looting occurred.

After the bank run, the central bank on June 29 ordered a four-day bank holiday, its first in 70 years, and the congress swiftly passed legislation exchanging \$2.2 billion in fixed-

term dollar deposits for government bonds. On Monday, Uruguay's state banks reopened and froze \$2.2 billion in certain accounts.

Responding to the government's proactive stance, the US made Uruguay a direct loan of \$1.5 billion as a bridge until the IMF approves its own aid package.

Although international banks have small exposure in Uruguay - \$7.7 billion in March, 2002, vs. \$50 billion in Argentina - the country's rapid demise portends a grim future for the region. The two bright spots left in Latin America, Chile and Mexico, are still little affected by the crisis in the Southern Cone. But the near-collapse of one stalwart economy shows that no nation is safe from the turmoil.

Analysts' Take:

Mr. Song Xiaoping, director, Division of Economics, Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

The financial turmoil in Uruguay is connected to the financial crisis in Argentina.

Argentina adopted a set of extremely open market policies in the early 1990s including privatization, a free market, and a convertible cur-

rency system. These policies led to a crisis in 1999 of a stagnating economy, which in turn brought turmoil to the country's financial market, society and political stage.

There are important lessons to be learned from the financial turmoil in Uruguay.

First and foremost, a country should adopt economic policies that fit its own special characteristics, instead of introducing "sophisticated" economic theories or policies from other countries. Considering the limited size and unsophisticated quality of the economies of developing countries, this crisis should serve as a warning for their plans for economic growth and overall development.

Governments should seriously consider and handle the triangle of relations among the government, society and market.

Moreover, a balance of social development and economic development is the real road to development and progress in a society. Economic growth cannot solve all the problems in a country.

Last, like any family, the government has to pay attention to the balance of accounts, both in terms of internal debts and external debts. Not doing so makes economic and financial crises inevitable.

Israel Introducing Dry-land Farming Technologies

By A Yi

Israel is trying to export its famous dry-land farming technologies and equipment to China as the country is accelerating economic development in its mostly dry western regions. This Monday, China's Ministry of Agriculture and the Israeli Embassy to China in Beijing signed an agreement for the establishment of a dry-land farming demonstration center in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The demonstration farm, called the Sino-Israeli Demonstration and Training Center for Agriculture on Dry-land, will be the third of its kind after an agriculture farm and a dairy farm, both set up in the suburbs of Beijing. Israel will put in \$3.74 million of the total \$5.62 million investment in the project, the rest of which will be provided by the Chinese side.

Major tasks for the dry-land demonstration farm include introducing sophisticated dry-land farming technologies and equipment from Israel, providing training programs for local agri-technicians in Xinjiang, and recommending the methods for the mass adoption of the dry-land farming technologies. The pioneer project will be based in Changji city.

HSBC Launches Premier Business Locally

By Wang Dandan

HSBC opened its first premier center in China's mainland at its newly relocated Shanghai sub-branch on August 8.

HSBC's premier service provides its Chinese customers with one-on-one banking and private investment consultancy services. Local customers can choose from a range of services including foreign currency deposit services in eight currencies, dedicated relationship banking and 24-hour phone banking. The bank stressed in its statement that by maintaining a total account balance of US\$50,000, customers can enjoy their premier service free of charge.

HSBC has the largest branch network of any foreign bank operating in mainland China, comprised of nine branches in Beijing, Dalian, Guangzhou, Qingdao, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Tianjin, Wuhan and Xiamen, a sub-branch in Puxi, Shanghai, and representative offices in Chengdu and Chongqing.

CPA Australia Makes Initial Move

By Su Wei

Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA) Australia has announced the opening of its Beijing Representative Office early this week, the organization's first overseas branch in China's mainland.

"This represents a five-year idea," said James Dickson, international director of CPA Australia, "and it is also a natural step. Now we have over 300 members in China including over 100 in Beijing. We are optimistic that the Beijing office will be a good base for us and China to have more professionals in accounting, financing and business."

According to Chuck Zhang, general manager of the Beijing Representative Office, this is the right time to open an office in Beijing. "As I know, the Chinese government has decided to have over 30,000 accounting and financing professionals up to international standards," he said. "Having an office here, we would not only increase our influence but also provide more services to members in China's mainland."

Zhang said they will hold as many seminars and professional development programs in China's mainland as held by the organization's Hong Kong branch. He said, "The most important thing is that every member has the opportunity to arrange their activities themselves."

Students Demand Fairer, Faster Treatment

By Lily Li

For the first time since NATO bombs destroyed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in 1999, students protested outside the heavily-guarded American embassy in Sanlitun last Thursday.

They wore white T-shirts with Chinese slogans "We only want to study," "Give me visa," and "Unreasonable administration in embassy damages the image and honor of USA."

The 28 protestors demanded faster and fairer visa procedures for their university applications. Half — including the leaders — came from Tsinghua University.

"We have no choice but to pro-

test because the entry period for universities is urgent, said Xu Huabin (pseudonym).

"I have been absorbed in this affair for half a year because the interval between each visa application is too long."

Xu, a Tsinghua student whose postgraduate study offer from UC Berkeley, has been turned down twice.

"I gave up my study opportunity in my alma mater and a lot of work opportunities this past half year, but now I have nothing."

Most of the protestors had been turned down twice. "This is the last straw," said Wang Wen (pseudonym), 24, a Tsinghua university student.

"In other cities in China like Shanghai and Guangzhou, if your application is refused, you can get a reapplication opportunity in just one or two weeks.

"But in Beijing, if you are unfortunately turned down, you have to wait at least 52 days for another interview. It's quite unfair on us."

Protestors said the number one "excuse" for refusal from the embassy is the possibility of immigration, meaning applicants are likely to stay on in the United States after their visas expire.

"This excuse is too subjective and sometimes untenable," said Yue Tai (anonymity), a protest leader who lost his opportunity to study public administration at the

University of Southern California after his application was rejected.

In English, he quoted the saying, "East west, home is best."

"We are Chinese, we love China and China is getting stronger and stronger offering us more work opportunities. We only want to study in the US to promote the developments of my homeland."

Between 1978 and 2000, 380,000 students left China to study abroad — 140,000 returned, according to the Ministry of Education.

The students sent a letter on August 5 to the embassy requesting a shortened waiting time between interviews. The embassy refused. The students returned to

protest and at about 10 am on Thursday entered the embassy, presenting a second letter to officials in which they demanded fairness and efficiency in the processing of visa applications.

"Many visa officers treat Chinese citizens unreasonably and impolitely," the letter said.

The United States has tightened immigration controls significantly since the September 11 attacks, hoping to keep potential terrorists from entering the country, according to an Associated Press report "Chinese Students Protest Over Visas" by Ted Anthony.

Students say they simply want to study.

The protest didn't end until 1

pm, when the embassy sent a letter in both Chinese and English to the students.

"To ensure that Chinese student visa applicants in Beijing have a reasonable opportunity to obtain visas prior to the start of the academic year, the US Embassy will make available special reapplication appointment dates prior to September 1 for those students who have been found ineligible only once since May 1, 2002."

This letter was also publicized in the website of the US Embassy in China (<http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn/visa/>) with the headline "Important Information Concerning Student Visa Application Appointments!"

Museum, Park Tussle for Expensive Fossil

By Lu Qing

A city museum and a local park are involved in an ungainly tug-of-war over the fate of a 1 billion-year-old fossil recently unearthed in the grounds.

While the museum hopes to scoop the loot, the park prefers to produce a unique tourist attraction.

Two visitors, a couple from a Beijing university, refused to not disclose their detailed identifications, noticed the fossil, according to Zhang Shixiong, deputy director of the administrative office of Liuyin Park, west of the Temple of Earth, Dongcheng District. Expert Wang Wenli from Beijing Natural History Museum near Tianqiao was then invited to make further identification.

The fossil proved to have been formed a billion years ago, when the Beijing area was under the sea. Zhang said the fossil was one of the rocks taken from Changping and Fangshan counties when the park was built 12 years ago.

Wang asked to take the fossil to the museum for protection if the park donated it. But according to Zhang, the park authorities have other ideas.

They decided to attach a small copper plate with a brief introduction to the fossil as a new attraction to visitors.

Chinese law states all "cultural relics" are national property. Those relics include vertebrate and other fossils closely related to human historical development.

But in this case, the fossil is an ancient plant fossil — not directly related to human historical development.

Wang from the museum worries about the park's decision setting a dangerous precedent.

He suggests in future, rare plant fossils will need proper protection, even though its number is large at the moment.

Wang also says a series of measures be established to ensure the quality and quantity of fossils, otherwise human negligence might ruin plant fossils that have been billions of years old.



Zhao Changshun (front) and Zheng Guolu, staff of Liuyin Park, guard the fossil.

Photo by Gloom

Beijingers Buy First Personalized Plates

By Ivy Zhang

"FBI-007," "APEC-001," "MAN-100," "VIP-008," "WTO-518," "163. Com," "HHF-168" (Hope Happy Family), "WIN-100" — Chinese citizens savored their first opportunity to choose their own license plates on Monday.

As early as 7 am, more than 100 were lining up outside the Beijing Vehicles Management Office in Laiguangying, Chaoyang district.

One and a half hours later, the first 2002 plate was issued to Mr. Xin, whose full name was not identified by the Beijing media.

Xin said the "京A BTV-001" plate was for his wife's imported Toyota Camry. "My wife and I selected this number be-

cause we like to watch Beijing news broadcasts by Beijing TV station," he said.

Xin said he had lined up since about 5 pm the previous day and was allowed into the hall at 7 am. As the car is imported, Xin needs to go through some extra procedures and so he is expected to obtain the plate three days later.

After Xin registered his desired plate, the second applicant, a middle-aged man surnamed Ge, heaved a sigh of relief.

He was afraid Xin might register the plate he desired for his Toyota Camry. "001-001," he told the clerk behind the window.

Told he had it, he was excited. "As far as I can calculate," said Xin, "this is the first license plate number among the 36 million new plates."

Zan Yunde, who works at Beijing Second-hand Car Market, was third. But he was first to obtain the plate "123-456" for his company's Audi A6 2.8 car.



Zan Yunde collects his prize.

Photo by Liu Yingyi



Crouching Tiger Hidden Drawing

By Lily Li

Walking home 8 pm last Friday, Li Suzhen glanced up at the old pagoda tree outside her home in Dongtao Hutong.

There, in the crotch of the tree about 1.5 meters above her, sat a tiger.

Tigers are not known to prowl Beijing, according to experts. They occur mostly in central and eastern China and prey upon wild cattle, deer and pigs. But Mrs. Li was taking no chances and shouted for help. A neighbour called the police.

After a speedy but cautious flashlight inspec-

tion, members of the Andingmen City Management Team were amazed to discover — one artificial feather tiger.

"Who could do something so boring?," said Li. "It scared me half to death and I stood stock still under that tree for more than an hour, not daring to go home."

Fact for Li: China has an estimated 20-30 tigers alive in the wild today. About 47 live in 18 Chinese zoos. The Chinese tiger is the most critically endangered of all tiger subspecies.

Photo by Yang Zhanghuai

Jilted Wife Stabs Mistress in Neck — with Syringe

By Su Wei

After injecting her own blood into her husband's lover, a housewife was being held under criminal detention at Fengtai Police Station yesterday.

"I do not feel any regret or sorrow for anything that I have done. My only regret is that that woman is not HIV-infected," said Zhou Mohua, 28.

Carrying 3 milliliters of her blood in a disposable syringe, Zhou walked 500 meters from her home 6 pm last Thursday to visit a neighbor who police named only as "Mrs. Wu".

Mrs. Wu, 37, Mrs. Wu's husband — "Mr. Zhu" — and their 15-year-old daughter, whose name has not been reported to the media, were eating supper.

"What a nice family you have," allegedly Zhou said to Wu. She then walked over to Wu, and stabbed her three times in the back of the neck as the two struggled.

The husband and daughter tried to stop Zhou. Mr. Zhu was bitten three times leaving wounds on his arm and shoulder. The daughter was also bitten on her arm.

Zhou then ran out of the house into a nearby supermarket, seized a knife and tried to cut her throat as police approached the scene.

The You'an Hospital medical certificate revealed Zhou in fact was not HIV-infected.

Zhou said she was infected after being injected in the buttocks six months ago at a clothing store in

Dahongmen. But a few days after the Dahongmen injection, said the police, a hospital doctor told Zhou she had not been infected. Zhou did not believe the hospital or "several others," according to police.

"I had similar symptoms to HIV infection," said Zhou. "I had pains on my hands and feet. I had no strength."

Fengtai police refused to name those involved.

"The family are the victims, although Wu is said to have had an affair with Zhou's husband since early 1998," said Shao Hua, an officer in the political department of Fengtai police station. "No name for the supermarket and the clothing store. People are too easily scared and feel

uncomfortable."

Shao confirmed neither Zhou nor the family are HIV-infected. "It is because of that woman that my family is to be broken," said Zhou. "I am certain to lose my husband; and our daughter will have no father."

"She may be sentenced," said Shao.



Zhou Mouhua

Photo by Shao Hua

Workers Climb Crane for Wage Justice

By Su Wei

Two disgruntled migrant workers climbed the cranes of their construction company to successfully demand more than 13,000 yuan in backpay from their manager. For their troubles, they spent five days in detention at Dongcheng Police Station.

Wu Xisheng, in his 30s, and his brother Wu Xicheng, 40s, both of Jiangsu, led 12 workers to the Min'an Weigaixiaoqu construction field about 3 pm last Monday.

Although not present at the scene, Beixinqiao Substation Police Officer Du Qingyou said the elder Wu had told the younger, "You climb up. I am too old. It is the only effective way for us to get the money back."

Wu then dialed '110' when he saw his brother sit on the arm.

Du said after two hours' negotiations with the manager, "Mr. Zhang", the younger Wu led other workers off the crane.

"An agreement had to be reached," said Du. "The elder brother took entire control. You can think of it as when the elder had the money in hand, he waved to his brother. But I did not say that," said Du.

The two were sent to Dongcheng branch for disturbing social order and hampering safe production.

Zhang had dismissed them, the brothers said. "He did not pay the money due for our work in the past half year," said the elder. "How could I believe him when he said he will pay back the remainder later? When is 'later?'"

The brothers Wu are not the first migrant workers to do this, but they are the first to be detained. Other such incidents include:

- A Gansu migrant worker called "Niu", 23, threatened to jump off a 14-story building at Haiyuncang Weigaixiaoqu in Dongzhimennei. He got back the 1,793 yuan wages owed from contributions by police and onlookers on July 10.

- Four migrant workers from Jiangsu followed Niu's suit at Taipingzhuang and got back more than 40,000 yuan from the construction project manager on the morning of July 25.

- Four migrant workers from Sichuan climbed a tower crane at Datun, requesting wages be paid on time on the afternoon of July 27.

- Two days later, another migrant worker followed their suit at Guanzhuang, Chaoyang.

Yang Wuyi, vice director of Dongcheng branch, says the word is spreading fast among migrant workers.

"They never realize the severe effects of their action," said Yang. "Construction has to be stopped. Traffic jams come with the crowd of onlookers. The police have to allocate resources to save them."

"These migrant workers must take on some responsibility, but we can understand their condition. They are not allowed to resort to climbing tower cranes.

"The law will solve everything."

Cadre's Status Headlines Reports of Tragedy

Hubei county head kills four people in a traffic accident

By Chen Ying

Gao Yongxin, the former vice-secretary of Yangxin County in Hubei Province, has expressed regret over a terrible incident he was in last month. But now, as he sits in a detention center, his feelings are too little, too late.

He killed four elderly women in his district in a traffic accident on July 27.

Gao, 40, was appointed by the provincial People's Congress to be in charge of political and legal work in Yangxin County at the end of 2000. Around every two or three weeks, he returned to his home in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province, by car.

After inspecting the situation in flood-stricken Wangying Village, Gao wanted to go home July 27. Along the way, he was notified of a meeting which he needed to attend. He had his driver turn around and head back to the capital of Yangxin County. Gao let his driver rest and took the wheel himself when they reached Daye Bridge. Tragedy struck while Gao was driving the red Santana sedan on the No. 106 National Road in the area of Xiawu Village, Futu Town, at 2:30 that afternoon.

At that time, Hualong Village residents Dong Meiyl, 68, Qiu Yongying, 59, Wang Yiying, 56 and Wang Yixun, 51, were making their way to nearby Taiwang Temple.

Lu Huaming, a resident of Shibazui Village of Futu Town, witnessed the accident. "It was horrible! I was terrified," he recalled.

After greeting the four women, Lu watched a red car pass him at high speed, close enough that he was badly scraped by its side-view mirror. He whipped around to witness an awful scene. Two of the women were struck and thrown high into the air, while another was flung into a ditch alongside the road and the fourth rammed against the bordering trees. Three of the women died on the spot, and the last passed away while being rushed to the local hospital.

The car stopped after skidding at least forty meters along the road. Lu then saw two people get out of the car, and after a

few minutes, one flagged down a passing jeep, jumped in and left.

Lu dialed the emergency service numbers 120 and 110. Police arrived at the spot thirty minutes later. Gao also dialed 110. He surrendered himself to the police and was arrested on the afternoon of July 29 after a three-day police investigation of the case.

Negotiations held on the morning of July 28 led to the awarding of 53,400 yuan to the families of each victim as compensation.

Gao's status has made the case unusually complicated. Media reports have made a special point of his official position. Would a similar situation involving an ordinary person garner as much attention? Opinions follow:

Xia Xiaoqin, chief of Order Department, Hubei Traffic Police Group

There are three serious problems in government leaders or cadres driving by themselves. They are likely to drive tired because of their heavy work and social schedules. Also, many are not well prepared for emergencies because they do not have good driving skills or lack experience. Some cadres think their status gives them privileges, like the right to violate traffic regulations. That is why they are likely to cause traffic accidents.

Chen Jieren, journalist, China Youth Daily

I'm not inclined to defend Gao, but I do feel this is one kind of status discrimination, as he is going through extremely intensive, intentional criticism. Some reports are maliciously emphasizing the special status of officials, which is not related to the accident itself.

Many people hate officials involved in corruption, a word some people are using in this case. Some have even arbitrarily expressed opinions that the tragedy wouldn't have happened if Gao wasn't a county vice-secretary.

However, Gao, first, is a person, and he is a citizen with a legal driver's li-

cense. He could be involved in an accident regardless of his special status.

People can find similar phenomenon every day. For instance, if a person who committed a crime was a graduate of a famous university, he would be called 'famous university graduate convict' in reports. Or, if a thief was caught in a supermarket, then the media would emphasize the thief's being a migrant worker.

In these examples, the media seems to be right, on the surface. Those are the facts, after all. But such intentional emphasis by the media can skew people's opinions of officials.

In Gao's case, the media can report on his status, but should not lead people to focus on his position as a county vice-secretary, if he didn't take advantage of it in this case.

Zhan You, reader of China Youth Daily

I totally disagree with Chen Jieren. In this case, an official drove a car, caused a traffic accident and killed other people. Should that be compared to other accidents involving ordinary drivers?

Is it wrong for the media to emphasize an official's status in order to raise public awareness and ensure a case is handled correctly? Actually, this is more an issue of newsworthiness. For instance, the news value of President Clinton flirting with a girl in the White House's Oval Office and a boss of a company flirting with his secretary are absolutely different in journalists' minds.

Furthermore, I think these reports about Gao are more like a kind of supervision than a form of status discrimination. Ordinary people who make mistakes or commit crimes may not draw public attention or be the subject of news reports. But the media have some duty to disclose when officials make gaffes after drinking too much, to say nothing of Gao's horrible traffic accident, to keep them in line.

I think media reports are not enough to supervise officials' behavior. Today,

supervision of administrators' morality and performance in and outside of the office is too slack, not too tight.

Ordinary driver, who requested anonymity

I doubt Gao's driving skill, and also wonder how he got a driver's license. I've heard many cadres can get driver's licenses easily through their circle of relations, even though they are unqualified. That is one kind of corruption. It's also wrong for local traffic departments to give licenses to those leaders.

Niels Peter Arskog (Huo Shan), Foreign Correspondent

It is always a "good story" when someone in power makes a mistake, intentionally or unintentionally, and the newsmedia in my country would certainly not refrain from mentioning the fact that this accident involves a person who holds public office.

We do have a set of ethical standards, that are adhered to by journalists and newsmedia, saying that a crime committed by an ordinary citizen will be mentioned in the media without identifying the criminal, unless the crime will lead to a punishment by court of more than one year imprisonment.

But if the criminal "wears golden chains," meaning he/she is in an official position, the person will be mentioned by both name and position even if he/she is only caught for shoplifting! Even accidents, regardless of who is responsible, will be covered.

There are two reasons for this. First is curiosity — our readers can identify with people they have heard, which makes the news more relevant. Second, we expect people who hold public office or are famous in some other way to uphold a higher moral standard, so of course the public should know when this is not the case.

This is certainly not discrimination. You might call it a kind of supervision. The public has a right to know if a person is good or bad, if he is honest and fit for office or not.

SOUND BITES

"The revenues from the eastern area of the country are equal to the sum of those from both the central and western areas. The big revenue gap between these different areas means that China's central government needs to put more money into underdeveloped areas to back-up their economic growth."

— Su Ming, deputy director of the Research Institute for Fiscal Science under China's Ministry of Finance

"At home, I also spent a lot of time on the bench. So that will not concern me. I would rather sit on the Spurs' bench than ride the pine at home. I believe I can squeeze into the first team by working hard."

— Qu Bo, 21, who joined English Premiership football team Tottenham Hotspur last Friday, after playing all three World Cup matches for China in South Korea, but only as a substitute

"I'm like a bird without wings. The suspension virtually paralyzes my activity as a lawmaker."

— Japanese Former Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka, who resigned from Parliament last Friday after she gave testimony over allegations of misuse of public money

"We warned the administration they were leaving no room for error and, over the last 18 months, we have seen our warnings vindicated."

— South Carolina Rep. John Spratt, the top Democrat on the US House Budget Committee, regarding the likely deficit of \$157 billion this year in the US federal budget

"The presence of other countries in Afghanistan can only be acceptable if they help the country and the government to rebuild and to bring about peace here. Fighting terrorism should not mean imposing the will of one country unilaterally on other countries of the world."

— Iranian president Mohammad Khatami visiting Afghanistan with an offer of aid

By Chen Ying

FEEDBACK

Employees Chicken Before Thieves

KFC staff stood to the side during in-restaurant robbery

Ren Yaoli, a 27-year-old bus conductor was stabbed to death by a passenger when she demanded he purchase a ticket on July 8. More than 20 passengers sat by and did nothing as the tragedy unfolded. Beijing Today published the story last week.

Chinese people often espouse the virtue of looking out for others at possible risk to oneself. However, actions speak louder than words. Would the average person really step forward in such a situation? A similar case that took place in a restaurant in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, may shed light on this issue.

By Chen Ying

Three thieves fled without any interference from employees after robbing customers in the Jiejiaqiao Branch Shop of KFC in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, on August 6.

"I will absolutely never go to KFC again!" raged victim Jiang Yanming to the local newspaper Jiangnan Daily.

Jiang and her colleague Chen Bofeng grabbed seats in the restaurant at 10:15 that morning. They began to eat and chat over their fast food. Jiang put her bag on the seat beside her, noticing a man wearing a white T-shirt seated at the next table who had not ordered any food.

Fifteen minutes later, Jiang looked over to find her bag missing and her T-shirted neighbor acting skittish and getting ready to head out the door. She rushed up and grabbed his arm, demanding, "Where is my bag?"

"I don't have your bag," replied the man, who then tried to make his way out of the restaurant as quickly as possible.

Jiang yelled "Thief! Call the police!" and called for nearby employees to close the restaurant's doors.

Nobody responded.

The purse-snatcher broke free of Jiang's grip and made a b-line for the door, followed by two accomplices who were carrying several other bags.

At that moment, Chen charged the door, trying to block the thieves' escape. "Dial 110!" he cried out to an employee standing close to the gate, but that person, and the rest of the personnel of the restaurant, did nothing until the three persons dashed out the door.

Chen followed them and started fighting with all three men on the street outside the restaurant. One of the thieves hit him in the face with a shovel, shattering Chen's glasses and leaving his nose and cheek covered in blood. Undaunted, he chased them down the street.

After running around forty meters, Chen was able to grab one of the criminals with the help of public security workers who happened to be nearby.

A customer dialed 110. Jiang found her bag on the floor about six meters far away from her seat. There was a big bag close to her bag, left behind by the thieves in their haste. Other customers said they saw her bag fall from the larger bag onto the floor.

After dealing with the case at the local police station until 5 pm,

Jiang returned to the restaurant, determined to receive an apology from its manager and employees, who she felt could have stepped in to prevent the theft and her friend Chen's being injured, but did not.

Zhan Yanjiang, vice-manager of the shop, said everyone who comes in the doors is a KFC customer, so it would be improper to prevent anyone from leaving. Though she did express regret over the incident, she offered no apology to Jiang.

Many customers phoned the restaurant demanding an explanation after the local newspaper Jiangnan Daily published the story on August 6. The general manager of Suzhou KFC had to go to the newspaper's office to release the results of the chain's investigation of the case.

Following its investigation, Suzhou KFC concluded protecting personal property is the duty of every customer. According to KFC, Jiang quarreled with three people after she found her bag had disappeared. The manager on duty had an employee call 110 immediately. Other employees stepped in to end the fight and tried to block the three suspicious customers from leaving.

However, a spokesman for the 110 emergency call dispatch center says the first person to dial 110 to report on the incident was a customer, provable because the call came in from a mobile phone.

Should KFC be held responsible for what happened? Are employees obligated to protect customers in their establishments? Opinions follow:



Jiejiaqiao Branch Shop of KFC in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province

Photo by Xu Weiping

Qian Xiaohong, spokeswoman, Suzhou KFC Company

KFC's restaurants belong to the public. It would be improper for employees to block the door if they were not sure someone inside the restaurant was a thief. Doing so for the benefit of one customer would in fact go against the interests of the rest of our customers.

Gu Xiaobin, lawyer, Minggucheng Law Firm

The basic consumer-dealer contract goes into effect the moment a customer enters the door of a KFC restaurant. The restaurant should adopt effective methods to protect customers' personal safety and their property. Also, the chain should take responsibility if its employ-

ees were indifferent throughout the incident. Of course, an apology is necessary.

KFC customer, who requested anonymity

The thieves might have been customers before robbery, but their roles changed once they started to steal other people's things. Therefore, KFC should have assisted customers in catching them. But Suzhou KFC tried to find excuses to absolve itself of responsibility. The customer is god. Consumers decide the destiny of a brand. As a world famous brand, can KFC truly not understand this principle?

Ma Lixia, lawyer

Jiang is the owner of the bag. Because of Jiang's carelessness, the thieves had the chance

to grab her bag. Although KFC didn't try to stop the robbery, the restaurant should not be considered responsible for the case. The dealer-customer relation only involves a dealer's goods and its sales environment. KFC should be held responsible if there is something wrong with its food or consumption environment.

For instance, if an employee just waxed the floor but failed to put up a warning sign, and a customer falls, KFC should apologize and offer some compensation if the customer is hurt. Whether or not KFC staff should have prevented this robbery is more a question of morality than legal responsibility.

Foreign lawyer, who requested anonymity

A shop may be released from their obligation to compensate its customers for his/her property stolen in the shop on the condition that a disclaimer is displayed in public view to remind customers to protect their own personal property. However, a shop cannot use the disclaimer as a means to evade their obligations to protect its customer's personal safety and property.

Hence, under western law, KFC should not only make an apology to the woman, but should also be responsible for the loss of the customer's personal property.

For example, if a customer suffers an injury after slipping on a piece of cabbage in a supermarket, the supermarket should be held responsible for compensating the injured customer.

Women Behind Bars

Who they are, why they do it — report

Women were involved in up to 20 percent of nation's murders, drug offences and economic crimes since 2000, revealed the national Procuratorate Daily (Jiancha Ribao). "The increase in women committing crimes is faster than the increase for men," said a spokesman for the Supreme People's Procuratorate, refusing to give his name. "Even Beijing is not exempt."

Having interviewed more than 200 female prisoners from more than 10 provinces

including Sichuan, Jiangsu, Shanxi and Zhejiang sociologist Sun Jingyan has published her findings in Chinese Women's Prison Report.

Containing few statistics and with consistent pseudonyms, the prisoners provided a fascinating insight into the psychology behind the rise in female crime.

All, apparently, were once kind and full of hope for life. Yet they all ended up in the slammer cursing their luck.

By Su Wei
Domestic violence

Half of the interviewed prisoners said they were victims of domestic abuse, including 25 percent unable to withstand beating or sexual abuse who resorted to killing or poisoning their husbands or other family members as revenge.

Shi Min, 26, in the women's block of Nantong Prison, Jiangsu, was kidnapped and sold into wifery.

She said she was pregnant when "that man" — she never uses the term "husband" — "beat me until I was handicapped, thinking in so doing that I would never escape."

"I could handle it. I could tolerate a man slashing my legs with a knife and even pouring scalding water on my head. But I could never permit him to harm my daughter.

"So one day I took a hammer to the back of his head. Once, twice, three times..."

Shi suffers no remorse.

"He deserved such an ending. After hitting him until he died, I felt a sense of release. But I pity my little daughter."

Wang Li, 39, also in the same block, choked her 5-year-old son to death.

She said she still dreams of her son coming to hug her at night.

"My son was so lovely. I am so stupid. I just wanted to take revenge upon my husband.

"Every day, he beat me. Every night, he found a woman and took her to my house. I knew how much he cherished his son. I thought making my husband the last of his family line was the best way to punish him."

Wang said she never thought about getting divorced or turning to help from legal departments.

"It is shameful to talk to others about problems in the family," she said, — an idea shared by most of the interviewed prisoners.

Zhang Yi, a researcher engaged in population studies at China's Academy of Social Sciences, said women's easy surrender to violence invites even worse treatment. "But these abused women are a special category of women who one day snap when they cross the threshold of tolerance."

Professor Wu Changzhen, studying women, marriage and family issues of China University of Political Science and Laws, concedes the possibility of more women committing such crimes as their social status lags behind rising incomes in China.

Literacy

Less than 8 percent of interviewed prisoners had received a high school education. Around 40 percent were virtually illiterate. Nearly 70 percent came from rural areas.

Sun noted women with little education or from rural areas tend also to know nothing about their



Nearly half were once drug addicts, including 28 percent dealers making money to pay for their own habit. Ninety percent of drug users were also prostitutes.

legal rights.

"They do not know how to resort to the law to protect themselves," she wrote.

Du Runqiong, a villager with three years' primary school education, from Guangdong, committed a series of poisonings. Du's case was one of the sensational national stories of 1996.

Before execution by shooting, Du was recorded as saying she believed she had done nothing wrong.

"What I have done is good for society," she said. "It shows that I am concerned with society. If there were fewer people, there would be no vagrant workers to compete with us for jobs, food and places to live.

"The local people would then not be unemployed. Neither would my son.

"I cannot use a knife or a gun. Poisoning was the only easy way I could think of doing it."

Legal awareness

Sun also found that with little education, these women often lack awareness of their legal rights.

"They then are more easily tempted by the idea of seeking the good life and overwhelmed by the idea that money is the most powerful thing in

the world and having money means owning the world."

Yi Ying, 30, in the women's block at Shanxi Prison, worked as a clerk in a savings bank in Xian. She recalls she lost her self-control after seeing colleagues dress up and wear necklaces.

"I couldn't go to the dance as I had few clothes except the uniform. But I knew I looked prettier than my colleagues," said Yi. "The several hundred yuan a month was too little, as I had to give my parents their share every month."

Yi began pocketing clients' savings.

"The first time was only 20,000 yuan, and no one found out. The second was 50,000 yuan — still not discovered," said Yi.

"I was satisfied with people's praises and proud of other women's envy when I wore my new fine clothes.

"But I didn't sleep well at night. As I closed my eyes, I would see myself caught and sent to prison. Yet I could not resist the temptation of being flattered."

Yi sometimes regrets what she did.

"But I shall cherish the sense of being envied forever."

美食 · 娱乐 · 休闲 TEL: 68997124 68311626

ZiyiXuan Baochi Lou 紫怡轩鲍翅楼

3rd Floor Building B,
Donghuan Guangchang,
29 Dongzhong jie,
Dongcheng District
东城区东中街 29 号东环广场 B 幢 3 层
11:00-14:30, 17:00-22:00
6856.9388

Beijing Roast Duck 北京烤鸭店

Building 3, Tuanjie Lake, Chaoyang District
朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼
11:40-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6852.4003

Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant 便宜坊

2A Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District
崇文区崇文门大街甲 2 号
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
Tel: 6712.0505

CLUB GREEN BEST CLUB IN BEIJING

ADD: Land mark Tower 1/F 8 North Dong San Huan Road. chaoyang District Beijing

地址: 北京市朝阳区东三环北路 8 号亮马河大厦一层

TEL: (010) 65906999 65906688 — 2988

COME & BE AS COOL AS —
GREEN



Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant

Welcome to our Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant.

Our features are undeniable: Walls decorated in purple and deep wine red; colors that really work together to produce a harmony; food that lie on in its contrasts; chefs that create a wonderful medley of hot, cool, sour, sweet, crunchy and soft dishes. Fish cake, deep-fried Taro, Green Pepper & Red Curry Fried with Beef and Minced meat fried with Basil leaves are not to be missed.

And, we have a unique Chinese name, Tai Xiang La, which means Spicy Thai Restaurant, verbally; and Very Good Smell, phonetically.

You're likely to satisfy your taste buds for a mere of RMB18 up, with weekday set lunch from RMB25-50. Tasty and inexpensive. A very good casual dining experience.

Add: 8 South Street, Guan Dong Dian, Chaoyang District.
(North of Kerry Centre Hotel and the back of Hot-Point Disco)
Tel: 6591.7726 Fax: 6591.7926

Donglaishun Restaurant 东来顺

5/F, Xindong'an Plaza, Wangfujing
Da jie, Dongcheng District
东城区王府井大街 新东安商场 5 层
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6528.0932

Fan Shi Gang 饭是钢

140 Andingdajie, Dongcheng District
东城区安定大街 140 号
9:00-23:00
64042187

北京好世界阳光酒店 BEIJING FANTASY WORLD CLUB

It offers a full range of services, including fine rooms, restaurants and entertainment centre.

FU LIN Seafood Restaurant: more than 100 kinds of fresh seafood are now 20% off.

Korean Flavour Restaurant: newly open, supply Korean food and barbecue. 20% off.

Entertainment Centre: Bowling, billiards, karaoke and gymnasium.

Tel: (010) 68843388-718/620

Add: 1 Gu Cheng Nan Lu Shijingshan District

(100 meters in west from Gu Cheng metro station)

电话: (010) 68843388-718/620 (详见店内海报)

地址: 石景山区古城南路 1 号 (地铁古城站西 100 米)

New French Restaurant Now Open!

来过罗兰·加洛斯吗?

不知你有没有来过罗兰·加洛斯, 有没有尝过这里鲜嫩的蜗牛, 有没有就着奶酪品味波尔多的葡萄美酒, 有没有燃着古巴雪茄欣赏网球公开赛? 侍者是彬彬有礼的, 还能把每款酒, 每种烟的来由娓娓道出。氛围是典雅的, 还有温暖浪漫的烛光。

这里还有独具特色的网球文化主题服务: 专门从海外订购的网球历史文化资料, 精彩纷呈的网球主题活动和球友内部通讯, 主题网站与“一网打尽”网球网络联盟。

Spoil yourself with genuine French fare and ambiance and a superb variety of wines at the **Roland Garros** restaurant. Close a full evening of relaxation with a choice of dramatic desserts, coffees, and Cuban cigars.

ROLAND GARROS

RESTAURANT & BAR, BEIJING, CHINA

罗兰·加洛斯 餐厅

罗兰·加洛斯网球主题法式餐厅
Roland Garros Restaurant
Open: 11:00-24:00 Daily

地址: 朝阳区农展南路朝阳网球俱乐部北门一层
Address: North Entrance Chaoyang Tennis Club
Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District
Telephone: 6508-9100



The ketamine seized by police is labeled "Edible Alkali".

Ketamine, also known as "K," is type of "dissociative anesthetic" that separates perception from sensation. Smaller doses produce a mild, dreamy feeling, while larger doses can trigger hallucinations.

According to the Public Security Ministry, the abuse of newer kinds of drugs including ketamine,

norodin and ecstasy is a growing problem in China.

The emphasis of the anti-drug struggle in 2002 conducted by the Public Security Ministry is to strike at the abuse of such kinds of drugs.

In the first half of this year, 250 kilograms of drugs were seized in Beijing, among which 150 kilograms were new varieties.

Beijing's Biggest Drug Bust

By Sun Ming/Cheng Ping

Beijing police last week released details of the largest drug bust in the city since 1949.

Thirteen gang members, including the ringleader, were arrested in coordinated raids on March 27, which also netted 100 kilograms of the hallucinogenic drug ketamine, 1.1 kilograms of norodin, a methamphetamine, 1.6 million yuan (US \$190,000) and 10 million yen (US \$85,000), and two pistols.

Tip off

In July last year, the drug squad of the Beijing Public Security Bureau received information that a large criminal gang was making and trafficking ketamine, an anesthetic drug that produces an hallucinogenic effect. The gang was said to be active in Guangdong and Shanxi provinces and Beijing.

The leader of the gang, Cao Yongjiang, was also known to be in contact with drug dealers in other countries.

On investigation, the drug squad determined that most of the gang members were brothers or relatives of Cao Yongjiang.

In March this year, the drug squad received another tip-off: A large quantity of drugs was about to be transported to Beijing for distribution.

Five cartons of 'edible alkali'

A special task force set up to monitor the gang soon identified four sites frequented by members in Beijing. The group was divided into four teams, each responsible for monitoring one site.

The four sites were the Nanhua Hotel and the Jingdong Restaurant in Xuanwu District, and No.10 building in Huiminyuan and No.6 building in Balizhuang, in Chaoyang District. The Balizhuang apartment was specially used to store drugs.

At ten pm on March 25, a Hongqi sedan parked outside the Huiminyuan site and the driver entered the building. Lu Jianguo, a key member of the gang, had driven the car from Taiyuan, Shanxi Province.

At noon the next day, Lu drove the car to the Balizhuang site. He unloaded five cartons labeled "edible alkali," one by one from the trunk and carried them into the building.

Coordinated action

At nine pm on March 26, gang-

leader Cao Yongjiang appeared at Huiminyuan. He had just flown to Beijing from Guangzhou. The same day, another two members of the gang checked into the Nanhua Hotel.

According to the analysis of police, all the main members of Cao's gang were now assembled in Beijing. This presented an ideal opportunity to round them all up. It was also known that Cao possessed a passport for Southeast Asian country and other members either owned such passports or were in the processing of obtaining them. There was clearly a danger that the suspects might flee the country.

The Public Security Ministry ordered police in three cities - Beijing, Guangzhou and Taiyuan - to mount simultaneous raids to arrest the gang members the following day, March 27.

At noon that day, Cao and three others were arrested in front of the Yayuncun Car Market. They had 19,000 yuan on them.

Lu Jianguo was caught at a bank two kilometers away, and five others at Huiminyuan and the Nanhua Hotel were also arrested.

Police found 1.3 million yuan, 10 million yen, a 130,000-yuan-credit and one revolver in the Huiminyuan apartment. The five cartons in the Balizhuang apartment labeled Edible Alkali were found to contain 100 kilograms of ketamine.

In total, 50 suspects in Beijing, Taiyuan and Guangdong province were arrested, including ten people from Hong Kong. Just under 2,000 kilograms of ketamine, 1.1 kilograms norodin, and 9,000 ecstasy tablets, as well as three pistols, 5.1 million yuan, HK \$4 million, 10 million yen and were seized.

Beijing drug-dealer arrested

Cao confessed to police that he had intended to sell the ketamine to Wang Yu, a Beijing drug dealer and addict. Cao had sold Wang the drug several times before.

The day after the raids, police arrested Wang as he came out of a bathhouse.

"What's your name?" "Where do you live?" "Is there anything in your apartment?" According to police, they asked the questions so quickly that Wang had not time to consider lying.

On searching Wang's apartment in Chaoyang District, policemen found



Cao Yongjiang Photos by Cheng Ping

1.1 kilograms of norodine and a pistol.

Renowned factory involved in drug case

According to Beijing Police, 36-year-old Cao used to sell norodin and ecstasy tablets, but he was not satisfied with the small profits they brought. In January, Cao signed an agreement with Shanxi Taiyuan Pharmaceutical Factory to buy ketamine, in the name of Shanxi Changzhiwubao Engineering Company.

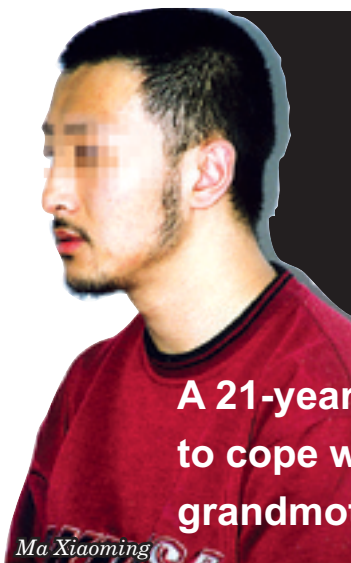
Cao's "company" invested 2 million yuan and took charge of the sale of the ketamine, splitting the proceeds 40:60.

Actually, there is no Shanxi Changzhiwubao Engineering Company. With fake official seals and fake purchasing permits, necessary to buy ketamine, Cao purchased 2,000 kilograms of ketamine from the factory over the following two months.

According to a *Shanxi Youth Daily* article dated June 20, Shanxi Taiyuan Pharmaceutical Factory was one of the top four pharmaceutical factories in China, but it had fared badly in recent years.

"In order to rescue the factory, which employs 5,000 workers, the leaders actively sought investment and orders. The factory is one of the few pharmaceutical factories in China permitted to produce ketamine. So Cao began to contact the factory this year," said the article.

According to Nanjing Weekend, three persons from the factory have been arrested. The case of the factory selling ketamine to Cao is still under investigation.



Ma Xiaoming

'Good Boy' Turns Killer

A 21-year-old medicine student unable to cope with pressure, murders his grandmother and father

By Ivy Zhang/Wu Danhui

"Originally I wanted to commit suicide. But I was afraid there will be no one to take care of them. As there is no hope, it's better for all of us to die."

A student who murdered his grandmother and father this February has been sentenced to death, with a two-year reprieve in consideration of his having surrendered himself to the police.

The sentence was handed down last Friday at the Beijing No.1 Intermediate People's Court.

Ma Xiaoming, a 21 from Beijing, entered the clinical department of Tianjin Medicine University in 1999.

Not happy with the course his parents had chosen for him, he failed to do well at school. By the end of the first semester of his third year, he had failed — four subjects and face two possibilities - either pay higher fees to continue studying or to drop out.

From January 17, Ma spent the winter vacation at home in Beijing. However, as the vacation neared its end, tragedy occurred.

Bloody Sunday

The family occupied two adjacent apartments in Qiantaoyuan, Xicheng District. Ma and his 70-year-old grandmother Song Shuzhen lived in a two-bedroom apartment; his father Ma Liping, 48, a repairman at Beijing Public Transportation Corporation, and mother Yuan Sukun, 47, a laid off worker from the Beijing Broadcast Appliances Factory, lived next door.

On the afternoon of Sunday February 24, one day before Ma was due to return to school, Ma's parents went back to their room after eating lunch with their son and his grandmother. Ma and his grandma were left alone.

The father was due to return around four o'clock, to see the son off at the railway station.

At three o'clock, Song sat on her bed watching TV in her room on the east side of the apartment.

Ma approached his grandmother, picked up a wooden stool and struck her on the back of the head. Song cried out "help!" and the boy's father's name. The force of the blow had smashed the stool, Ma picked up a small plastic flask from the table and hit the old woman with that. He then picked up another three-legged stool and hit her again. Finally, he used an electrical cord from a cooker to strangle her.

Ma pulled a quilt over Song's body, cleaned up the spilt water on the floor and sat on his own bed in the west side of the apartment.

About five minutes later, his father stepped in and said to the boy "let's go!" As he moved towards the grandmother's room, the boy picked up an axe from behind the door and struck his father on the head with it. The man fell to the ground and Ma struck him again a couple of times, then put one of his grandma's pillows over the head.

"I didn't have the heart to look at him," he said later.

"The blood was all over me, my arms, hands and sleeves. I went into the bathroom to wash it away. At this time, I no longer wanted to kill mum. It was terrible, appalling!" Ma said.

Mother and son

Next door, Yuan Sukun was playing computer games.

Ma rushed into the room, threw himself onto a chair, panting and looking pale.

"He said 'sorry, mum. I'm very sorry,'" said Yuan, repeating the dialogue between them.

"I killed my grandma and my father."

"Are you lying to me?"

"No. It's true. You and dad work too hard for me."

"My boy, you don't have to go to school. There are many ways to go."

"I regret. I really do. Mum, let's go to die together."

"How?"

"I don't know yet."

What is wrong with Chinese college students?

By Zou Hui/Toy Zhang

There have been many news reports about suicide and criminal cases centering on college students this year.

Ma Xiaoming killed his grandmother and father in February. Liu Haiyang from Tsinghua University threw acid on bears at Beijing Zoo in the same month, Beijing university student Ma Zhongyi kidnapped two female students with a fake gun in March.

Many education specialists say college students, most of whom live on campus, far from their families, are immature. An irrational education system and the students being spoiled are key factors behind this violence.

Professor Fei Anling from China Politics and Law University said, "The Chinese education mechanism fails to promote the development of students' personality and psychological health".

Society expects too much from college students and schools tend to judge students only on their academic performance, which places great pressure on them. Many have difficulty reconciling the big gap between expectations and the reality.

Meanwhile Chinese parents tend to spoil their only child, an unintended consequence of the one-child policy, imposed since the late 1970's.

To ensure the balanced growth of these youth, the education system needs to be changed, as well as the way families deal with children.

"Your dad is only in his forties. Let's save him."

...

Ma agreed and the mother called the police and an ambulance. When she went to go next door to look, Ma stopped her by holding her in his arms.

The police arrived, and took Ma away.

Comments on Ma

Ma used to be a good boy, obedient and considerate. "He is not a bad boy. We forced him to do things he didn't like. We choose the school for him. Ma Xiaoming is my only hope left now. As long as he is alive, I'll be waiting for him," said his mother before the trial.

Since the boy goes to college, Yuan said the school never approached them and the couple rarely inquired about his studies.

Hai Jie, the counselor for Ma Xiaoming's class, said Ma's academic performance had been poor. Since entering the third academic year, he had been made a "trial student," under the school's policy as he had failed make-up exams for two subjects during his second year.

Hai did not mention, however, that trial students have to pay more for studies. "I paid 3,000 yuan more myself for two academic years and did not let my parents know. I feel much pressured," said Ma.

Han Shuqin, deputy party secretary of the Basic Medicine School of Tianjin Medicine University, said, "I talked with Ma prior to the winter vacation. In his case, he shall be a trial student at a lower grade. He agreed to talk with his parents and give us a response after the vacation."

Zou Qifang attributes his success to two aspects of his personality — strong drive and a steady work ethic.

Sinking His Teeth into Success

By Zhang Huan

The dynamism of Beijing's market has opened opportunities to make money in some unlikely places. For one local entrepreneur, the path to success has come from offering modern methods to solve an age-old source of trouble: teeth.

"When I do things, I want to do them well from beginning to end," says Zou Qifang, 47, president and CEO of the Arrail Dental Clinic, from his simply furnished office in the CITIC Building on Jianguomen Avenue. His gentle and cultivated manner in talking about his experiences make him seem more like a scholar than an entrepreneur.

His business, Arrail Dental, is the first private dental clinic in China to open in a major office building and offers high-grade dental services aimed at the city's white-collar workers. Surprisingly, Zou himself is not a dentist.

Zou worked as the marketing manager of the Sino-American Tianjin Smith Kline & French Laboratories, Ltd. in the late 1980's before going to the US to study management in 1990.

Upon returning four years later, he worked for American companies in Hong Kong and finally set up his own dental business in Beijing. Zou attributes his success to two aspects of his personality — strong drive and a steady work ethic.

Finding a path to success through trial and error

At Sino-American Tianjin Smith Kline & French Laboratories, Ltd., Zou worked his way up from assistant to general manager, then director of the general office and later marketing manager over a period of eight years.

His hard work and talent were often recognized, but he still felt dissatisfied. In 1990, at the age of 35, he felt he "needed to study the theories about management. I was curious then and wanted to go abroad to broaden my outlook," he says.

When Zou told the company's general manager his idea, the general manager was very reluctant to let him go. "He advised me to go abroad for a half year at the company's expense, but I didn't want to give up my study plan," he says.

Zou later resigned from his job and enrolled at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, the top business school in the US, where he focused on financial and strategic management.

His trip to the US not only gave him new knowledge of management theory, but also broadened his overall horizons. He was especially influenced by lectures offered at the school outside the curricu-

lum by famed entrepreneurs like Bill Gates, who talked about their experiences in the business world. Inspired, Zou gradually formed a personal "American dream" of setting up his own business.

After graduating, Zou headed to Hong Kong, where he worked as an associate at Bankers Trust and a consultant at A.T. Kearney, all the while looking for the right chance to go into business for himself.

In 1997, Henry Wendt, the chairman of the Board of Smith Kline Beecham purchased the company Steri-Oss to promote its dental therapy technology known as "dental implants," and he asked Zou to conduct a market survey for the product.

He visited more than thirty clinics in ten cities around China and found that nationwide, there were not enough dental clinics to meet patients' demand, especially top-grade clinics for white-collar workers. That discovery planted the seed in Zou's mind of getting into the dental business.

Zou went to the US again to seek investment in 1998, crashing at a former classmate's studio in New York City. He made his first pitch for cash at a major investment company on Wall Street.

"I held a meeting to listen to my lecture, a big table surrounded by important people. I introduced my plan to start dental services in China and they asked all kinds of questions. They seemed very interested in my project, which was exciting," he says. At last, however, he didn't receive even one cent of investment.

"It was really disappointing," recalls Zou with a smile. From the experience, he learned a hard lesson that big companies are hesitant, if not completely unwilling, to invest in start-up projects because the risks are high and they involve nearly the same degree of work as larger projects. Zou then turned his eyes to venture capitalists, finally receiving more than \$1 million to set up his dental clinic.

A man who believes in "No pain, no gain"

"Many people are surprised that I have chosen the dental field for my career and that I'm still in it. They think I should be doing something bigger," says Zou. "I have long-term goals, but I will reach them in a down-to-earth style."

In April, 1999, Zou launched his first dental clinic in the CITIC Building. It was based completely on a US model, with 10 separate treatment rooms and offering "four-handed treatment," meaning each patient receives care from a dentist as well as a dental assistant. The



Playing with his daughter is the happiest moment on a day.



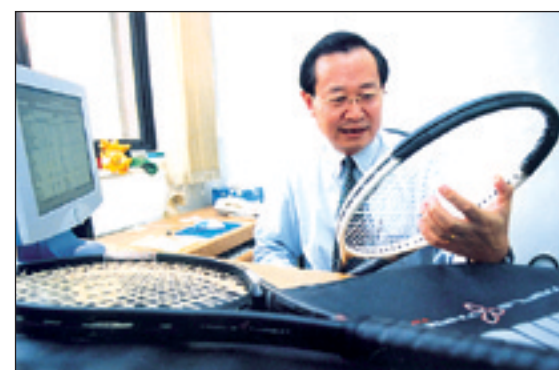
"In my spare time, I like to cook for my family," says Zou.



The treatment rooms at Arrail Dental were designed to be "patient centers."



Zou heads a routine team meeting every Monday afternoon.



Tennis is his favorite sport.

Photos by Zhuang Jian

"The qualifications of my personnel have improved along with the company"

After its initial troubles, Zou has enjoyed watching his business boom as the dental clinic concept gradually sinks in among city residents. Despite its prices, which are higher than those at most local clinics, the facility has drawn patients from all over the city, and new clinics have opened in Shenzhen and Shanghai.

Instead of being smug about his success, Zou prefers to focus on the development of his personnel: "I once employed a young nurse who seemed rustic at first but after working here for some time, she gradually changed. She told us that her friends complimented her on her improved appearance and temper. She was happy about her change and I was too. The qualifications of my personnel have improved along with the company."

Zou holds deep feelings for his employees, almost like a father to his children. "Our employees often receive some tips and get payments when they give lectures outside, which they always hand in to the company. With that money we decided to set up the Arrail Personnel Fund and form a committee made up of employees to man-

age it," he says.

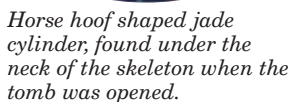
To his surprise, more than ten people, or around one fifth of his total employees, signed up to sit on the committee.

To hone down the numbers, a vote was held, in prelude to which every candidate gave a speech before the clinic's whole staff. Zhou recounts, "everyone who has to speak in front of lots of people will get nervous, but they did a good job. Their speeches were eloquent and powerful and I was very proud of them." In the end, five people were elected to the committee.

"I was very happy with the whole process for three reasons," says Zou. "First, our personnel all handed in their tips or payments on their own initiative. Second, the fact so many people took part in the election shows their courage and ability. And third, the whole process embodied the principle of justness and fairness. All three points show the high quality of our personnel, which is really the source of our success."

We are inviting contributions for FACE. If you have a story you think we could use, please send us an outline.

Our e-mail address: Portrait@ynet.com
Our fax number: 65902525



C Eastern Zhou

[illegible]

Rashomon Blends Traditional with the Modern

By Zhu Lin

The traditional Chinese opera form kunqu meets modern drama in an adaptation of Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon*. In fact the adaptation is in two parts, over two days; a kunqu opera version of the film, followed by a drama titled *Post-Rashomon*, performed by the same group of kunqu performers.

"The integration furthers the communication between drama and Chinese opera," Fang Tong, director of the North China Kunqu Opera Theatre, said of the production, which is being staged at the Mini Theatre of the People's Art Theatre.

Twin forms

Two years ago, when Fang finished the script for a kunqu version of *Rashomon*, he found that coincidentally, his friend Zhang Cheng had just finished a script for a drama adaptation of the film. He and Zhang decided to combine the two works into one stage show.

The two-day performances are woven together in a way that ensures the audience maintains their interest. In the kunqu opera on the first day, the original story is told. A robber rapes a woman when she and her husband pass through a wood. The husband is murdered or perhaps commits suicide. Different accounts of what happened in the woods are presented to the audience by the three protagonists and an eyewitness.

On the second day, the drama focuses on the troupe's rehearsal process for the kunqu opera *Rashomon*. During the rehearsals, the actors and actress express their confusion in understanding what is real in the world.

"In terms of stage art, the time of one-story-centered design has already passed. Both kunqu and drama need to cooperate with other artistic elements," said Qi Jian, a college teacher and drama fan. "In that way, more people will come to watch the play because different people will find something of their own preference."

Constraints relaxed

Traditional Chinese theater forms like kunqu have solid rules and disciplines, which provide a base for the performers. However the more constrained this form is, the less exploration is required on the part of the performers. Both of the two-day performances are played by the same group of kunqu opera performers, some of



Liu Wei in a scene from the kunqu version of *Rashomon*...

Photos by Li Yan



... and the drama version

whom seem to find the lack of constraints in the drama form unsettling.

Like other Chinese operatic arts, kunqu opera has strict rules governing rhyme and pronunciation. The movements of the performers are also highly stylized, with even the number of steps required to perform a certain action being fixed. This is a discipline kunqu performers learn from an early age.

Freed from such constraints, Fang Tong says some of the performers were not sure how to act at first, and some of their movements seemed rigid. "I

think now the performers have already changed, but mostly off the stage in rehearsing," he said. "Since most of them are still adapting this process, sometimes they might forget about it on the stage."

It is the first time for Liu Wei, who plays the wife, to act in a drama. "When I play the drama, I become independent, and I can't depend on the rules of kunqu anymore," she said, "So I've got to explore more about my own ideas."

Revitalizing a traditional art

The most important things for drama, improvisation and creation, are what Chinese operatic arts lack the most. "In the rehearsals of Chinese operas, few people pay attention to improvisation," said Fang, "If you want to add some gesture to an old aria, sometimes it will annoy the whole academic circle, like a violation."

Playing drama is a liberating experience for the kunqu performers. At the end of the drama, the woman walks around the illusion of her husband, and repeats over and over, "You are sick, you need my care; you are tired, you need my tears; you laugh, I'll laugh with you..." This part is a result of improvisation, said Fang, "I'm so happy with the performers' re-discovery of their creativity."

Chinese opera performers undergo an intensive regimen of physical and vocal training from an early age, and usually they are more linked with operatic and literal knowledge. That is what drama and film actors and actresses lack. If the Chinese opera performers are given more opportunity to re-discover themselves, they will harness a powerful energy.



Cui Jian in singing

Just Say No to Fake Singing

By Zhang Huan

Veteran rocker Cui Jian is calling for a campaign against "fake singing" in live concerts. Last Sunday, Cui invited musicians as well as music and TV producers and directors to CD Café to join his campaign by signing their names on a 100-meter-long cloth.

"Fake singing" refers to the practice of using recorded music during concerts instead of, or to supplement, the performance of the singer or band. According to Cui, the phenomenon is widespread in China and is unfair to talented singers and musicians. He called on people

not to stand for fake singing and give true music back to audiences.

Another respected musician, Lo Tayu, was present to lend his support to Cui Jian. "The true musicians should insist on live singing. I support Cui Jian and his campaign one hundred percent," he told those present.

Besides Lo, some two hundred people joined Cui, including Wang Hai, a well-known opponent of counterfeit products, pop singer Li Jin, and Chen Ge, a producer who helped Lo Tayu with his recent 14-concert tour in China's mainland.

Colorful Experience in Dream and Real Life

By Qiao Luqiang

Just inside the entrance of Creation Gallery is a striking painting dominated by a big red character *shuang xi*, meaning "double happiness," with paper-cut goldfish on either side.

Under the character is a table bearing tea, a vase with blooming flowers, fruits and other food, symbolizing the bumper harvest and happy life peasants traditionally pray for. *Leisure Life and Happy Life*, an ink and wash painting by Zhao Chengxiang, symbolizes the phenomena of people in big cities seeking to escape urban life, warning us in a simple and unpretentious style to question the values of life and the civilization we have achieved.

In contrast, a painting in the next section suggests a dream far away from real life. The title *The Season of Love* is only a decoration to this abstract oil. Why Love but not Delight or Excitement? "The title actually has nothing to do with what I want to say, but I finally decided to give a hint to the audience," said the artist, Zhang Jianbo, "Otherwise it is too hard for them to communicate with me."

From the arrangement of the colors, especially the techniques used for the emergence of the colors, it is clear that the artist is influenced by the American school of color-field abstract expressionism, which explores the pure interrelationship of colors. However, this is absolutely not the whole for Zhang Jianbo. Why eight colors? They symbolize the Eight Diagrams of the I Ching (*The Book of Changes*). Therefore under



Photo by Zhuang Jian

Leisure Life and Happy Life

the surface of western techniques, are the traditional attitudes to life of Chinese people and profound Chinese philosophy. This "love" is no doubt the new love feelings of Chinese people in this westernized season.

The group exhibition, titled "Review" showcases works by Xiao Feng, Huang Gang, Dong Ze, Zhu Xinyi, Bamazaxi and eight other artists represented by Creation Gallery. More than twenty artworks in various mediums such as ink and wash, oil, etching, mixed media, sculpture and lacquer painting. Although there is no central theme for this exhibition, you will be led to experience a colorful life in practice and in dream, in the East and in the West as well.

Where: Creation Gallery, Ritan Dong Lu, ChaoYang District, Beijing

When: Till August 23

Tel: 65067570

Qiao Luqiang, graduated from the Department of Management (Arts), University of South Australia in 1999. He is currently the sales manager of Salvador Dalí's Fine Art Gallery in Beijing, part of the touring Dalí exhibition.

品牌装修送品牌保洁

采用无甲醛板材及进口环保水性涂料
使您的住宅远离装修污染



为您的家庭量身打造
装修施工方案

家居保洁 商业保洁

To provide cleaning and maintenance service
for a graceful living and working space

美奥保洁

Meiao Houskeeping

优质服务队伍
Efficient service team

专业进口设备
Advanced equipment

Tel: 8401 0926

8401 8543

BeiJing Jia Yu Hua Decoration Co.,Ltd

地址: 北京市朝阳区亮马桥路光明大厦8层1806室

电话: (010) 8455 2536 (嘉宾专线) 64678822-1806

传真: (010) 8455 2530

Add: Room 1806, 8F, Guangming Plaza, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang, Beijing, China

Tel: (010) 8455 2536 (嘉宾专线) 64678822-1806

FAX: (010) 8455 2530



加裕华装饰

Crowning Glory for Miss Hong Kong

By Zhu Lin

Twenty-one-year-old college student Lin Minli was named Miss Hong Kong last Sunday in the final of the pageant held at Hong Kong Stadium. Of the nearly 2,000 entrants in the competition, twelve appeared as finalists on Sunday night. This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Miss Hong Kong Pageant. The party to celebrate the event cost HK \$3.5 million to stage.

Lam Man Lee (right), second place winner Jolly Victoria Jane (center), and third place winner Wu Kar Wai.

Xinhua Photo



Lo Tayu and ex-wife Li Lie

Lo Tayu Sings Penitence to Ex-wife

By Zhang Ran

A group of musicians and music critics joined on Sunday to listen to new songs recorded by Lo Tayu, prior to the November release of his new album.

The fifteen songs cover a wide range of subjects, including dancing, the Internet, and even the September 11 terrorist attack.

Love is no longer the theme to the 48-year-old crooner. There are only two love songs in the new album, which Lo said he wrote for his ex-wife Li Lie. "I did not feel regret until after I divorced," Lo said. He and Li divorced in January last year after two years of marriage.

Singer Launches New Album

By Zhu Lin

Pop singer Sun Yue burst into tears, apparently a result of work pressure, at Sunday's press conference for her new album *Lily*. The album is her first since signing a contract with NMG Entertainment (Beijing).

Sun spent a year to prepare for *Lily*, which contains ten songs. "This is the most well-prepared album I've ever made," she said, after recovering her composure.



Sun Yue

Director Plans Shanghai Film Studio

By Zhang Ran

Director Stanley Tong plans to invest 500 million yuan to build a film studio in his hometown Shanghai.

"Hong Kong is a modern city and there are historic settings for movie shooting, but Shanghai is much cheaper," he said. Working environment has clearly been a factor in the well-known Hollywood director's choice of Shanghai, not only dietary preferences!

"In the next seven years, I will help to build a large film and TV center, and there will also be a movie school. Veteran filmmakers will be invited and you will find the good circumstance here will make it increasingly easier to cooperate with Hollywood," Tong told journalists.

The director, who gave up a \$2 million pay packet for making a TV series in Hollywood, said, "I am here to bring the movie skill back to improve China's movie level."

Gong Li Stars in Urban Love Tale

By Zhang Ran

Movie star Gong Li appeared in Beijing recently to promote her new movie *Zhou Yu's Train*.

The film, directed by Sun Zhou, is scheduled to open here at the end of September. Gong plays two different characters in the film, a story of a woman in love with two men, which she described as a new experience.

"It is my first time to act in an urban love story. Zhou Yu is a modern woman. She lives

an ideal life and has ideal love ideas," she said.

Gong said a woman can certainly fall in love with different men at different times, telling reporters she was "now in love with man of sincerity and wisdom."

The star of *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Ju Duo* will be busy in the coming months. She will join Hong Kong director Wong Kar-Wai (*In the Mood for Love*) for his next film and there is also a French movie waiting for her in January.



Gong Li and director Sun Zhou

WORLDWIDE

Hundreds Gather to Mark Monroe's Death

Hundreds of fans, coming from as far away as Europe, turned out last Monday at a Los Angeles cemetery to mark the 40th anniversary of Marilyn Monroe's death by placing flowers on her crypt and sharing their memories of the screen love goddess.

The service, held yearly on the date of Monroe's death at age 36, attracted about 250 Marilyn devotees to the chapel at Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park, a cemetery spokeswoman said.

The two-hour service was the largest in at least 20 years, said cemetery spokeswoman Kathy Boyett. (Reuters)

Citizen Kane Again Tops International Poll

Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane* was voted best film of all time Thursday in an international poll of critics organized by the British Film Institute's Sight and Sound magazine.

The poll, which surveys critics from countries ranging from Bangladesh and Cuba to Estonia and the Philippines, is conducted once every decade. *Citizen Kane* kept the spot it first secured 40 years ago. Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* was second.

The most recent film in the critics' top 10 was Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather Part II*, released in 1974. (Reuters)

'Happy' Britney Spears Takes Six Month Break

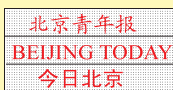
Pop princess Britney Spears is taking a six month break, but her publicist has denied rumors the 20 year-old singing sensation was so exhausted and broken-hearted that she was "running home to mom."

"She is taking six months off. She has been working for four years straight and she is taking a break," publicist Lisa Kasteler told Reuters.

The star, who has made three hit albums and a movie since rocketing to fame in 1998, is also said to be devastated over her breakup in March with childhood sweetheart and singer Justin Timberlake. The breakup of the two-year romance was blamed on conflicting schedules.

Kasteler however said Spears "is fine, she's happy. It has nothing to do with the things that have been reported." (Reuters)

Edited by Zhang Ran



房地产(英文版) 让我们和太阳一起升起

《北京青年报·房地产(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需求,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力事使客户的广告效力发挥至最大!

Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, which is released every Friday, is a new advertising special one for the real estate and relative industries. The English Edition is delivered with the newspaper so the media advantage is very obvious. Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, aiming at the advertiser's requests for the more pertinence, let's the policy-makers read the relative contact directly and try to reach the most advertisement effectiveness

HOT TEL:13910419797

Dart Foreign Affairs Management Office

*Yard architecture whih European style
*sufficient parking space, convenient traffic, complete facilities and offering service around the day

**Dart Commcerce Office

- 1.it is located between CBD center and Guomao
- 2.favourable price:RMB3-4yuan/squaremeter/day
- 3.telephone number:65032597 or 64951817

**Dart Commcerce Garden

- 1.it is located in the New Olympic sphere and it is between foreign account office and the Chinese-Japanese Hospital
- 2.favourable price:RMB 2.8-3.5yuan/squaremeter/day
- 3.telephone number:65032097 or 65032598

My compay also has open separate foreign of-fice building with 15000 square meter to be sold(Including property right).It is located in north-eastern corner of SiyuanBridge.

龙潭涉外公寓

LONGTAN APARTMENTS

from\$500/month. 34-110 sq.m (studio,1-2bedrooms)

- . Fully furnished with satellite TV,IDDappliances.
 - . 24hour hot water,security, plentiful parking
 - . near the Temple of Heaven, Chongwen District
- call now for more details.
67115358 67128749



WARWICK INTERNATIONAL APARTMENTS

Were we do our job...So you can do yours.

Special recommended villa at Lido are \$6000/29spm/3br/fully furnished

TEL:(010)67151166 ext.3005/3006



赛特饭店 SCITECH HOTEL BUSINESS FLOOR ON LINE

Business Floor Standard Room: USD98+15%SC
Business Floor Suite: USD138+15%SC
Business Floor Duplex Suite: USD300+15%SC

Express check in & check out Free use 3DDS Internet Lines
One free buffet in CoffeeShop per day Dailynewspaper&Magazine Free use
swimming pool,GYM and sauna Free income taxes
Daily happy hours:(17:30-18:30) Welcome amenities on arrival

One piece free pressing per day

ADD:No.22Jianguomen wai Avenue, Beijing 10004P.R.China
Tel: 8610-65123388
Fax: 8610-65123542
E-mail:sthotel@w.com.cn

City Plaza(Phasel)And Palace International

Address:3A,Shi Lipu,Chaoyang District,Beijing,China
Transportation: conveniently closeto Chaoyang Road, Jingtong Express Way, and Ciyunsi Bridge of the 4th Ring Road
Services: Receptionist(Lobby), Tickets, Room Service, HomeMaid, Room Cleaning, Home Appliance Repair, and Flowers.
Rental Returns: USD900.00-2200per month
Current Occupation Rate: Offices:100%:Department 95.7%
Business Tax: 0.4%
Management Fees: PalaceInternational:RMB800 per square meter per month for Cleaning, Security(in-door and out-door)Vegetation, Elevators, Elevators, Minor Repairs, Room.

HOT TEL:65561798

NWD (Hotels Investments) Limited

Beijing Kiu Lok Property Management Services Co Ltd

Member of the Hong Kong Listed New World Group invites high-calibre applications for the post of Leasing Executives:

Applications must possess:

- University degree
- presentable appearance
- excellent inter-personal and negotiation skill
- outgoing and aggressive personality
- fluency of spoken English and Putonghua
- sound sales / marketing experience and record
- corporate client connections a definite advantage

We offer attractive basic salary, commission and excellent career prospect. Please send both English and Chinese resume (with employment history, academic qualification, present and expected salary) together with a recent photo to The Sales

保罗大厦

- ◇ToSouth of LanDao building,it'snew building
- ◇Area:3500m2-4000m2,430spm/per floor
- ◇This building is available to Bank,Negotiable Securities,Business Center,restaurant etc.
- ◇24hours security & hot water

Tel: 65958081 65958060
Mobil: 13701350511 13910890956

Add:No.38 Chao Wai avenue
Chao Yang district Beijing

Sunflower Tower 盛福大厦

Investors: Philipp Holzmann Anlagen GmbH
Location: No.37,Maizidian Street,Chaoyang District,Beijing Next to the LiangMa Hotel.Located atthe East3rdRing Road
Area: 817square meters(based on architectural area)on24th Floor
Asking rent: USD28/month/sqm(gross including management)
Communication: Supplied nodes IDD lines and 4MB of Capacity
ISDN is available
Elevator: 10KONE elevators HVAC System:Four-pipe system
Amenities: Busines center,Exhibition facilities,Retail space
Existing Tenants: Walt Disney,BASY,KONE,E-turtle Nex work

Tel:85275696-608



租售热线:

Enquiry hotline:

65886868

Developer:

Beijing Zhong Baixin Real Estate deveiop-ment Ltd

Designer:

RTKL Company



北京市国宾大厦

BEIJING AMBASSADOR MANSION
Ambassabdor Mansion
Good News!

Newly decorated apartments and offices
Apartment styles Available!
Range from 1 bedroom to 4 bedroom
USD1000/month up

Office Styles

Nex area from 20m2-1600m2
Ambassador Mansion is an excellent choice for your business or life
For more information
Call us at 010-64384093
or fax on 010-64380148

寻求合作

本公司欲求东二环东三环附近写字楼式办公楼进行合作。要求:手续合法,价格合理,中介免谈,真心合作者请来电:64055786

this newspaper's perennial legal adviser:Beijing jingtai law office
undertaking mostly:

1. real estate business that buy-rent and manage kinds of licences in Beijing;
 2. foreign cases ,maritime ,finance ,bond ,important and difficult affairs;
 3. debt ,economy contract ,foreign marriage cases ,criminal defense;
 4. notarizations;
 5. holding perennial legal advisers for foreign enterprises ,providing legal assistance;
 6. providing law ,regulations and contract versions in any languages.
- TEL:86-10-83521218 FAX:86-10-83525557
http://www.venus-law.com e-mail:jt@venus-law.com

Designer Opens Little Curiosity Shop

By Salinda

It is not easy to find a small but complete shop that includes home-made clothes, shoes, curtains, ceramics and glass vases.

"I want to do what I like," says Cui Rui, "To design ideal clothes is my desire. And I try to create the most beautiful atmosphere in my store."

The 16-square-meter shop shows off Cui's and other friends' works.

Enter the door, four paper lamps — round, square, oval and conical — hang on stands. A Japanese lamp on the floor catches the attention. Her friend Zhang Chunlin designed it.

Rough ceramic jars and plates of clay with green glaze are displayed on a table. There are cups, flower vases and goldfish tanks. On the wall, a clock can easily be mistaken for a slab of stone at first glimpse.

Where: Feng Qi Wu (凤栖梧) east to Ya Xiu Market of the Sanlitun North Bar Street, Chaoyang District.

Price: clothes at 150-300 yuan, clock at 220 yuan, vase at 20-60 yuan.

Open: 10:30am-9: 30pm.

Tel: 6416 9641.



Ceramics at 20-70 yuan, by Cui Rui



Cui Rui's home-style atmosphere

Photos by Li Shuzhuan

Grotto Sparkles with Marbles

By Salinda

It's not a real cave. Winding stairs lead to a 600-metre-long, 2,600-square-meter underground stone arts shop, away from the noisy city.

So Dong Fang Rare Stone Cave on Ping'an Avenue is not really a cave. It is "an aircraft carrier in the field of rare stones", according to some local media.

"It is the biggest scale collection point for rare stones in China dedicated to showing Chinese stone culture," says Dong Ning, director of the store close north of Beihai Park.

Pebbles from Nanjing, marbles from Yunnan, stones from Jiangsu, rocks from Hubei — each exhibit leaves much to the imagination. Chinese see animals, mountains and rivers in the many natural veins and shapes.

Each stone is displayed on a wooden support, labeled with a poetic name according to the shape or pattern on the surface of the stone, and its production area.

"China has a long history of stone culture," says Dong. "In the old days, a stone lion standing at the gate was to avoid evil. As a totem, rare stones symbolize luck."

"Only the royal or rich families collected them as a hobby and as a decoration for their home and garden, the stones indicated their noble status."

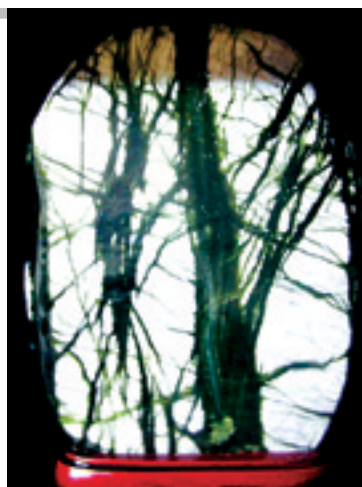
In modern society, following the development of the economy, collecting and appreciating rare stones has begun something of a revival.

Where: Dong Fang Qi Shi Dong (东方奇石洞) Geng 2, Aiminjie, Ping'an Avenue, Xicheng District.

Price: 5 yuan-several million yuan. Do not be shocked by the high prices.

Open: 9am-6pm.

Tel: 6651 2546.



"Green Tree Stone", 8,000 yuan, Inner Mongolia



"Pigeon Stone", 60,000 yuan, Gansu



"Coco Stone", 90,000 yuan, Guangxi

Photos by Li Shuzhuan

Store Corners Cane Market

By Dany

It is hard to find cane furniture in the capital city, more popular in South China and South Asia. The store at Chaowaidajie possesses more than 300 kinds of cane furniture including rocking chairs, deckchairs, stools, beds, bookshelves, tea tables and baskets.

"Yunnan is the only place that produces cane in China. The weather and the soil there determine it," says owner He Xueli. "My company adopted Yunnan cane for 16 years before coming to Beijing."

"Now we use Indonesian cane, which is the best in the world. Most of it has grown more than 100 years."

Furniture here adopts European, American, French and ancient Chinese style dyed gray, blue, white, red, bronze and blackish green. Most of it comes in natural beige with cloth cushions.

"The character of cane furniture is that it is cool in summer and warm in winter," says He. "Also it can be used for 30-40 years. It is easy to clean and does no harm to people's skin."

Tip: The price appears rather low as this is an outlet store for the company.

Where: Aoyue Cane Furniture (澳乐藤业), beside Yabaolu Market, Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District.

Price: sofa at 2,000 yuan, chair at 300-500 yuan. Bargains are available. They can also custom design and manufacture products according to the requirements of clients.

Open: 8:30am-7pm.

Tel: 6507 5375.



The rocking cane chair costs 500 yuan, a best seller.

Photo by Lydia



Glass fish, 20 yuan

By Dany

The 20-square-meter store is a treasure bowl of stationary, imitation ancient Chinese porcelain and glass art. Whether or not you buy, it's cool to stop here and frisk around for a few minutes.

"All of our artworks are the design of Hong Kong designer Alan Chan," says owner Sun Jingyuan. "He once said, 'The world

Chan Delivers Style

should know exquisite artworks made by Chinese are not always displayed on shabby stands."

There's an azure fish ashtray, business card boxes with kung fu pictures, and notebooks covered by old Shanghai beauties.

Born in 1950, graphic designer Chan won more than 400 local and international awards during his 25 years of advertising and design. The dominant theme of his creations is the fusion of oriental and western cultures.

Now the store treasures most of his T-shirts, paper and tin products, best sellers especially among Japanese.

Where: WB118, China World Shopping Mall, China World Trade Center, Chaoyang District.

Price: 10-10,000 yuan, notebook at 48 yuan, greeting card 10 yuan.

Open: 9:30am-9:30pm. Tel: 6505 9186.



Imitation Song Dynasty porcelain

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 6590-2524. E-mail: shopping@ynet.com.

Business Service 商务服务



BEIJING PRE-MEDIA ADVERTISING CO., LTD.

Advertising agent service

为国际、国内知名企业提供广告代理服务

Business service

为外商提供商务服务与交流合作

Corporation identity design service

为企业提供专业品牌形象设计服务

- CI / VI设计 • 宣传册 • 公司简介
- 产品说明书 • 产品包装 • POP广告
- 手提袋 • 海报 • 宣传单

HIGH QUALITY · BEST SERVICE

TEL:(86)010-88552079/80 13601205460
AD.E-mail:premedia@263.net

BUSINESS AGENT



北京市商标事务所

BEIJING TRADEMARK AGENCY

TEL: 68083066 68081369

FAX: 68081370

地址: 北京市西城区月坛北街2号月坛大厦6层
16th Floor Yue tan Tower No.2 Yue Tan North Street
Xicheng District Beijing

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A Five-year-old Advertising company

Possess of certain marketing resource, plan to invest exhibition, design & produce. Now looking for foreign capital to joint venture and cooperation.

Aim

- ◆ Introducing advantage experiences and technologies from design and produce of overseas exhibitions.
- ◆ Introducing trademark, administration and marketing promotion from overseas exhibitions vocation.
- ◆ Introducing certain quantity capital to enlarge scale. Welcome to connect to us.

Tel:13701378266

北京工商事务咨询服务中心

BEIJING CONSULTING SERVICE CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

业务范围: 承办国内外企业登记注册代理业务、外国企业常驻代表机构审批、登记注册的代理业务。

The center handles applications for enterprise and foreign enterprise permanent office in Beijing registration.

地址: 北京市海淀区三里河1号西苑饭店7号楼107-109室
RM107-109, NO.7, XIYUAN HOTEL, NO.1 SANLIHELU, HUIDIAN, BEIJING.
电话: 68313388 转 57107-57109 88371521 传真: 68342761 联系人: 周研、孙霞、任民



BeiJing PRE-MEDIA Advertising Company

A well-known professioned company

We provide following services:

- ★ Market strategy, promotion and design, Boutique agency
- ★ Advertisement Management of plane Media, TV advertisement
- ★ Buying Representative

Quality service obtain honour welcome to consultation

TEL: 88552081

FAX: 88552079

MOBILE: 13601226884

E-mail: pieere@sina.com

北京京城出国留学服务中心

CANADA

- ◆ Get information of Canada university at present
- ◆ Recommend eight university in Canada

Hotline: 010-66050344/66050391

RUSSIA

- ◆ U.S.A university standard, Chinese university fee
- ◆ Enough speciality
- ◆ no requirement of age
- ◆ BA and Master

Hotline: 010-66050775

CHINA BEIJING SERVICE CENTER FOR STUDENTS EXCHANGE

Head Office Tel: 010-66020403 WebSite: www.cbjsc.com
Address: Level 6, Xidan Tushu Building, No.17 Xi Changan St. Beijing

Housing Costs Drop for Foreigners

Restrictions on Foreign-approved Housing Purchases Lifted as of September 1

By Wang Dandan

Starting September 1, the Beijing Municipal Government and the Beijing Real Estate Bureau will cancel the regulation separating apartments into those approved for foreign residents and those not, giving foreigners a much wider range of choices when looking to buy homes.

The original regulation, put in place in 1995, restricted foreigners to only being able to buy or rent foreign-approved properties, while Beijingers were able to buy any apartment on the market. This regulation certainly goes against WTO rules.

According to Chen Tongshun, director of the marketing department of the Beijing Real Estate Exchange Center, this policy will consist of three main parts:

1. the words "foreign-approved" will disappear from all sales permission certificates. People with earlier-edition certificates can exchange those certificates for new ones at the Beijing Real Estate Bureau;

2. sales contracts will be unified. Starting September 1, no words such as "foreign-approved" can be printed on contracts, though holders of earlier contracts do not need to have their contracts exchanged;

3. outside of economical apartments, foreigners will be allowed to buy any kind of housing in Beijing.



Shenlan Huating on the north Fourth Ring Road, a foreign-approved apartment complex, has enjoyed strong sales since going on the market in 1998.

Photo by Michele Glair

"This will certainly affect the market, in terms of supply, demand and even prices," said Chen. He added that the passage of the regulation will also increase investment by foreigners, as many had expressed interest in buying non-foreign-approved houses in the past.

The new policy should have a strong effect on the foreign-approved housing market, as more buyers may choose to buy non-foreign-approved houses, which offer good quality at relatively low prices. As most buyers of foreign-approved houses are Chinese who intend to rent the

houses out to foreigners, they may reconsider such purchases.

At the same time, foreign-approved houses are especially designed to meet foreigners' demands and have their own target clients. The actual impact of this policy on such apartments remains to be seen.

Prepare Your Home for a Perfect Showing

By Michele Glair

Continued from last week

Using flora

In spring and summer, an outdoor container garden or lush hanging planter is appealing and can add a lot of impact. If your house is going on the market early in the season, consider purchasing mature plants rather than starting from scratch. A home's interior can benefit from flowers and greenery, as well. A simple market bouquet can brighten up any room of the home and has a charming appeal.

Curb appeal

It all comes down to first impressions and this is the very first impression you are going to make on a potential buyer. Make sure house numbers are easy to read. Clear any clutter in the yard such as kids toys, lawn and garden tools, etc. Trim overgrown trees and shrubs.

Opening doors

Pay particular attention to the allure of the entrance to your home. This will be the buyers' first up-close and personal view. Make your entrance welcoming. The exterior itself should be dirt and cobweb free. Sweep off steps and/or your entrance mat.

The door should be cleaned or repainted. Doorknobs, doorbells, and lighting fixtures should be



Photos by Michele Glair

polished. Any glass in the door or entryway area should be sparkling. If you keep a rug in front of the door and it has seen better days, invest in a new one.

Appliance reliance (especially important if appliances are built-in or being sold with the home)

Ovens, stovetops, and range fans should be well cleaned and grease-free. If drip pans have burnt-on grease and are unsalvageable, they should be replaced with new ones from any discount store. Clean out your refrigerator's fan grate, which can collect a lot of dust. It is easy to remove and may

be cleaned with a damp cloth.

Floor to ceiling

If carpeting is looking tired and old, have it professionally cleaned or rent a carpet cleaner and do it yourself. Pay particular attention to high traffic areas and/or stains. If carpeting in a particular area is well worn and stains cannot be cleaned, consider replacing it. A medium grade, neutral color will prove quite cost effective in the long run. Ditto for vinyl flooring.

Walls should be free of dirt and nicks. For light-colored walls, use a non-abrasive cleanser with bleach. If walls and ceilings have permanent stains or nicks, con-

sider repainting. Choose light, neutral colors, instead of stark white. Add a tinge of cream to warm up the room and make it feel more homey and inviting.

Mr. fix-it

Small repairs should be made before selling your home. Loose railings, leaky faucets, broken hinges, and damaged gutters should be repaired or replaced. In the long run, these little renovations can make a big impact by showing that your home has been well cared for.

The pet zone

If you have pets, keep cages, dishes, and litter boxes clean at all times. Pet hair should be frequently vacuumed. Always cage or kennel pets when your house is being shown.

Stage left!

Visuals are important and should be kept in mind when home staging efforts are underway. Well-placed furnishings can make even cramped rooms seem generous. If you were thinking of editing your furnishings before moving on, consider doing it now.

Nice, homey touches such as fresh cut flowers, elegant guest towels, and the tempting indulgence of hard candies or mints left on the counter as a thank-you can provide an overall ambiance that is sure to make a lasting impression.

Outskirts of CBD Worth a Look

By Wang Dandan

Though the Central Business District in Beijing covers only about four square kilometers, it is a definite catch-phrase with real estate developers. Complexes in areas as distant from the downtown district as Wangjing, Guangqumen, and even Tongzhou District and Yizhuang Economical Development Zone, are advertised as being within such-and-such kilometers of the CBD or being located within the vicinity of the district. What are the advantages of each area?

Within the district itself

Developers have been very eager to build apartment buildings in the CBD because of their faster return on investment than office buildings. Office buildings take a longer time to generate profits and most are rented instead of sold.

Even apartments with high prices are attracting many buyers who look at the properties as investments. The limited size of the district means there are relatively few apartment buildings in the district, meaning prospective investors have to also look at buildings near the area, such as along the Second and Third Ring Roads. Zongluquan International Garden, Glory International Garden, Oriental Garden and Shiqiao International Garden, which are located within the CBD, offer high construction quality standards and well-rounded services. Sales of apartments in these complexes have been strong since the launch of the CBD plan.

North and West of the district

The Jianguomen area, to the west of the CBD, enjoys a superb location and has the most mature living conditions for foreigners. It encompasses the Sci-

tech, Imperial Garden, Jiahua International Garden and embassy areas, as well as Ritan International Garden and Yijingyuan. The area offers good living and working environments, but relatively little grass and a relatively dense population. Future development around Jianguomen will be hampered by its limited space.

Compared with Jianguomen, areas north of the CBD, as represented by Wangjing, have improved greatly. Wangjing offers good transportation access, with its location near the Airport Expressway and east Fourth Ring Road, though Jingshunlu often has traffic snarls. It also offers residents complete living facilities such as supermarkets, hospitals and schools.

Southeast of the district

The area to the southeast of the CBD was the last to undergo heavy development, with large areas of land still free of buildings.

The area east of the district, where Chaoyanglu is located, is marred by bad traffic, but that situation should improve with the construction of Chaoyang Road and Chaoyang Beilu, as called for in the CBD development plans. Prices in the area are relatively low, but may increase after the completion of these roads.

The south of the district is the last area to be developed, but offers good quality. Complexes in Guangqumen have wider grass coverage than other developments around the CBD. Consumer interest in Shanshui Garden and Oriental Scene Garden is on the rise. The Xidawanglu area shows promise with its open traffic and large space for future development.

Seasonal Retail Market Review

By Julia

Compared with the booming retail scene in the second half of last year, the market was comparatively quiet in the first six months of 2002, with fitness and beauty centers being the most active, according to an investigation conducted by Debenham Tie Leung. Recently opened fitness and beauty centers include The Spa in the China Life Tower, Decleor in Sunshine Plaza, Body Works from the USA in the Cheng Ming Building and Bally Total Fitness Center in the Bright China Chang'an Building.

In early 2002, there was a wave of wholesale commodity markets but it has proven to be short-lived. Examples were Qianbaiqian in Henderson Center, which opened on January 1, 2002, Meiren Street, which opened on January 12, and Liren Street, which opened on January 26.

Several shopping centers such as The Henderson Center, the Pacific Department Store in Pacific Century Place and Sun Dong An are re-positioning themselves to respond to the fierce competition created by supermarkets and wholesale commodity markets.

Supply

In the first half of 2002, supply of retail space came primarily from the retail podium of some commercial and apartment projects. In the second half of the year, the 70,000 square meter Xidan Pacific Department Store and 50,000 square meter SOGO II will be launched for leasing.

Demand

Retailers showed strong demand for space in mature commercial districts such as Wangfujing and the Central Business District (CBD) where traffic flow could be guaranteed. Retailers most active in the last six months were big hitters such as supermarkets, furniture stores, department stores and entertainment retailers; and service trades such as medical clinics, dental services, convenience stores, fitness centers and beauty and hair salons.

Fashion retailers tended to

be more selective and preferred properties with quality management and experienced developers.

Rent and Price

Investment in retail properties was high in the first half of 2002 as total supply increased. Sale prices, however, varied widely according to projects' specific conditions. Rental levels remained stable, a trend that is expected to continue through the rest of the year.

Market Outlook

With residents' rising standard of living and concerns about quality of life, the health care and entertainment industries are expected to grow rapidly in Beijing.

A giant movie city with state-of-the-art digital equipment will be built in Wangfujing's Jinbao Street in a Sino-Belgian joint venture. Not far away at Oriental Plaza, another joint venture multiplex will open. With the existing Sun Dong An Theatre, these movie complexes will make the Wangfujing area an entertainment hub, complementing its current status as a retail center.

Looking to the near future, Beijing is going to develop along a pattern similar to that of the US, with shopping malls built in suburbs and satellite towns connected to urban centers through convenient road and rail systems. Four malls are planned for the suburban corners of the city, namely the Zhongguancun International Shopping Mall, the Beijing Mall in the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area (BDA), the Spring Mall and the Capital Network Mall.

The trade mix of these shopping malls will be mostly made up of department stores, specialty stores, theme retail and hypermarkets, complemented by boutiques, theme restaurants, bars, theatres, concert halls, gymnasiums and public service facilities. They promise to offer one-stop shopping and unprecedented experiences, making them a healthy addition to the monotonous retail patterns of Beijing.

Offices Get Garden Touch

By Hydie

The SOM Construction Design Company has released the general plan for the second phase of the Raycom Infotech Park and Raycom has invited experts from the construction design, market promotion and property management fields to discuss the future development of the project in terms of design, construction, operation and maintenance.

Tower B of the complex is located on Lianxiang Road, facing Zhongguancun Nanshanjie to the east. The tower consists of two office buildings that are 83 meters high, divided into 17 floors. A glass lobby lounge connects the two buildings to an outside side garden. The tower has a total area of 97,306 square meters.

According to the architect from SOM, Larry Chen, project manager, Silicon Valley was used as a reference in the plan, in which the building of gardens is the main focus. The plan is by no means an imitation of Silicon Valley, however, as it will integrate elements of China's culture and business environment. How to combine offices in the community with other facilities such as a shopping center or bookstore is a question left to the complex's designers.

Office buildings should be designed for work, said Chen Moushen, previously the manager of the China Resources Building in the Jianguomen area. Real productivity comes from an appropriate environment, not from simply sitting in a cubicle every day. Architect Cui Kai suggested that the general plan of Tower B maintain the V-shaped design to give the whole community a more harmonious look.

The complex' designer, Yu Kongjian, suggested stone not be used as the outer material for the building, as it is expensive and cold-looking. Yu has encouraged the park's developers to focus on how to connect the office buildings with surrounding gardens.

By Hydie

Harbour Plaza Beijing Unveils Package

Harbour Plaza Beijing is offering its "best value room package," featuring discounted room rates and deluxe amenities, through August 31, 2002. Starting from only \$68 for an overnight stay in a standard room.

Tel: 6436 1805 / 6436 2288

Summer Rate Break at Shangri-la Hotels

Shangri-la Hotels worldwide are offering special "summer rate break" packages that promise excellent value for money, with rates starting from \$299, until August 31, 2002.

In addition to saving up to nearly 30 percent on all room types, guests can also enjoy enhanced services like daily breakfast, airport transportation, fresh fruit and complimentary use of the hotels' fitness centers, tennis courts

and golf facilities.
Tel: 6561 8833

Grand Hyatt Beijing Launches Great Summer

Deal

There is nothing more rewarding than the pure indulgence of a stay at Grand Hyatt except paying up to 50 percent less to enjoy it.

Before August 31, 2002, guests can enjoy Hyatt Great deal rates at the Grand Hyatt Beijing, either for business trips or weekend retreats.
Tel: (00 852) 2956 1234.

Leftbank Community Up for Sale

Sales of space in the Leftbank Community, an office building situated on Suzhoujie in Haidian district, started end of last month.

An apartment building will be built adjacent to the office building. This complex is targeted at small enterprises and provides well-rounded services and facilities.



Activities



The Great Treasure Hunt

The first time in Beijing, this event will gather 120 participants in automobiles and side-cars, teams consisting of minimum two and maximum four members. Participants will drive an unknown route through Beijing, following clues and/or performing tasks that will lead to the great treasure. Once the treasure has been found, all teams will return to the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel where the winner will be announced. Then a buffet brunch will be held at the Atrium Cafe, to the accompaniment of the Beijing Symphony Orchestra.

When: September 15, 9 am - 3 pm.

Fee: 350 yuan per person, children half price.

Reservation: www.yphh.com

German Food and Drink Night

Another new event food and drink night. Includes five glasses of German beer (weisse and/or bitburger), German BBQ dinner buffet, two schnapps, lucky draw and other entertainment.

Where: Schiller's 2. **When:** August 22, 6:30 pm. **Admission:** 150 yuan.

Reservation: www.yphh.com



Furniture lecture

Walk and Talk

Ming and Qing furniture structure and materials. **Specialist:** Hu Desheng, Palace Museum researcher, furniture specialist. Activities: precious wood specimen, see the tenon mortise joint, understand the making process of Chinese traditional furniture.

Where: gather at Kempinski lobby, departure to Red Sandle Museum at 2 pm, till 4:30 pm. **When:** August 17. **Admission:** 200 yuan (transportation, English translation). **Tel:** 8451 8767.

YPHH Happy Hour

Rooftop terrace available. Three hundred free beers. Magaritas 25 yuan.

Where: Cabo Cafe. **When:** August 28, 6:30 pm. **Info:** www.yphh.com

"We Enter Another World"

Video show of cave adventure in Xiangxi (northwestern Hunan Province).

Where: Xingshecongong Bar, opposite the National Library, bus 320, 732, to Beitou. **When:** August 23, evening. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6846 3550, 6846 3552.

Chinese Culture Club

The club will not have events from August 18-30 but it will provide private services. Either two-three people or big group, people can ask to organize all the events in the past, or suggest what you expect.

Email: fengcheng@chinesecultureclub.com **Tel:** 8851 4913.

Bar Activities

Eclipse - Hip-hop Show

Featuring DJ Franjo, Foenix Fortean, Rumor. All drinks 10-15 yuan all night.

Where: Black Sun, west gate of Chaoyang Park. **When:** from 9:30 pm. **Admission:** 25 yuan for men, 15 yuan for women. **Tel:** 13501 355103.

Club Orange

Club Orange launched a new Saturday night event that is a community enjoying techno together. The first 1,000 registration persons are free from the joining fee.

Where: 2, Alley 10, Xingfuyicun. **When:** August 17, 8 pm. **Tel:** 6415 7413.

Diving

Diving Tour

Travel to the beautiful tropical island of Hainan and enjoy the ocean and its diving adventures. A short trip for diving lovers. Interesting tours, beach games and coral reef open water diving. Professional instructors will be on hand to show you how to explore the depths of the sea.

When: August 23-26. **Deadline for registration:** August 17. **Fee:** 4,980 yuan per person, 4,800 yuan for members (including air fair, transportation, diving fee). **Tel:** 6522 9988 ext. 6660.

Exhibitions

Summer Oil Paintings

Works by Xiao Hong, Xiao Ce, Ling Zi,

Jiang Tianyu, Liu Fenghua, Feng Feng

Where: Qin Gallery, 1-1-E, Huaweili, Chaoyang District (north of Beijing Curio City). **When:** August 18-30. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8779 0461.

South China Flavors

Traditional Chinese painting exhibition featuring works by more than 30 artists.

Where: West hall of Wan Fung Gallery.

New Vision Series - People in Tibet More than 30 oil paintings and more than 10 sculptures.

Where: East hall of Wan Fung Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** till August 30, 9 am - 5 pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6523 3320.



Painting by Kuang Han at Wan Fung Gallery

Food

A New Look over Beijing

Hilton's rooftop has just been renovated, offering a more elegant ambience, comfort and a view of the city at night.

Where: open air, 26F, Hilton Beijing. **Tel:** 6466 2288 ext. 7461. **Fax:** 6465 3073. **Email:** cb_Beijing@hilton.com



Party held on the 26th floor of Hilton Beijing

Provincial Cuisine

Taste the diversity of Chinese regional cuisines, such as Shanghaiese, Cantonese, Chaozhou and Sichuan cuisine, by Chinese master chef Johnny Hui from Hong Kong and his team. A lar carte menu includes sauteed shredded pork with preserved vegetable, stewed fish with hot sauce, deep-fried spare ribs and pan-fried cucumber pancake with diced pork.

Where: Hoi Yat Heen Chinese Restaurant, Harbour Plaza Beijing. **When:** till August 31. **Price:** 80 yuan for adult, 45 yuan for children. **Tel:** 6436 2288 ext. 2614.

Hiking

Small Triangle Hike

Route: Hike in the countryside on A mountain path through orchards. The trail goes up to the ridge. Walk along the ridge, past some big pine trees to a reservoir. Have a swim and lunch by the reservoir, from where the trail loops back to the start.

Where: Changping County, north of Beijing. **When:** August 18, 8:30 am. **Pick up:** 8:30 am at the Lido outside Starbucks. **Fee:** 150 yuan, 100 yuan for children. **Email:** bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

Language exchange

A student, able to communicate in English, wants to find an English native speaker, who wants to learn Chinese.

Email: candace_0411@hotmail.com

Movies

Springtime in a Small Town

With English subtitles.

Where: Dongchuang Cinema, 3 Xinzhongjie, Dongzhimenwai, subway or bus 24, 44, 815 to Dongzhimen. **When:** August 15, 8:30 pm. **Admission:** 30 yuan. **Tel:** 6415 7332.

Go For Broke

Directed by Wang Guangli, 2000. A fresh approach to Chinese filmmaking. A true story of a band of laid-off workers from state-owned companies who set out to risk their own fortunes in the private sector and then find out that success is not what it used to be.

Where: outdoor Fountain Terrace, Hilton Hotel Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu. **When:** August 16, 8:30 pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6461 5318/9.

La Traviata

Opera in three acts by Verdi, conductor and music director: James Levine, with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and



La Traviata

Chorus, starring Teresa Stratas, Placido Domingo, Cornell Macneil. Italian with English subtitles.

Where: Cultural Office of the Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'erjie. **When:** August 22, 7 pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6532 2187.



Cyclo - Tony Leung (right)

Cyclo

Directed by Anh Hung Tran (director of *The Scent of the Green Papaya*, *Vertical Ray of the Sun*), starring Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, Tran Nu Yen Khe, Le Van Loc, 123 minutes, 1995. *Cyclo* is an unnerving journey into the alleyways and slums of Vietnam's contemporary heart of darkness, Ho Chi Min City. Banned in its native country, the film has been described as "Transpotting for the arthouses" and "Pulp Fiction relocated to Ho Chi Min City".

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee House, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, Haidian District. **When:** August 17, 7 pm. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 6279 1280.

The Siren and My Heart

The Siren, directed by Lee JooYub, starring Shin HyunJoon, Jung JoonHo, Jang Jin Young, 102 minutes.

Where: Cultural and Press Dept of the Korean Embassy, 38 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang District. **When:** August 16, 23, 5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8453 81112/3.



My Heart

Music



Itzhak Perlman

China Philharmonic Orchestra

Poly Theater, August 27, 7:30 pm, 50-480 yuan. Great Hall of the People, August 29, 7:30 pm, 120-800 yuan. 6528 7675 ext. 198/508.

Music at Get Lucky

Chinese Punk, August 16; Lilith, Roxes, Huang Dao Wan Ou, Yu Hua, August 17; Heavy rock'n'roll night, August 18.

Where: Get Lucky. **Admission:** 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students. **Tel:** 6429 9109.

Itzhak Perlman Violin Concert

Itzhak Perlman is a genius of music. Though born with infantile paralysis, his ambitious spirit in practicing the violin led him to receive a bursary to study in the US. From his music world, we not only enjoy the wonderful musical works, but are also illuminated by his great spirit in reaching his goal.

Where: Great Hall of the People. **When:** August 29, 7:30 pm. **Admis-**

sion: 120-800 (VIP) yuan. **Tel:** 6528 7675 ext. 198, 8528 2090. **Tickets:** www.piao.com.cn/english



Left to right, Xiaoshizi and Shang Hao

Hi-bomb

Sponsored by Jazz Brand and Chanel V, IF Music hosted the launch party for Hi-bomb's first song No. 1. Hi-bomb, described as "China's first hip-hop band," star singer Shang Hao and rapper Xiaoshizi (Little Lion). The party was held at Hot Spot Disco yesterday.

Tel: 6588 4460, 6588 4475.

Performance

Acrobatics

A performance that shows the essentials of the country's civilized heritage and action skills.

Where: Wansheng Theater. **When:** everyday, 7:15-8:40 pm. **Admission:** 100-150 yuan. **Tel:** 6528 7675 ext. 198/508.

Passion on the Sleepers (Yu Wang Huo Che)

Don't be deceived by the title! The riveting plot revolves around an influential government official, an up-and coming singer, a has-been star with an impending tax lawsuit and her agent. The four meet in a train carriage but each harbors a secret motive, while keeping a friendly front.

Where: People's Art Theater, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** September 3-7, 7:15 pm. **Admission:** 80 yuan. **Tel:** 6528 7675/7750 ext. 198/508. **Ticket:** www.piao.com.cn/english

Reminders

Talk with the Director of *Crying Woman*, The Loft, August 18, 2 pm, 6506 5592.

First anniversary of Evolution Fitness, August 16-19, 6567 0266.

Shaolin Warriors - Chinese Theatrical Kungfu Spectacular, Tianqiao Theater, August 21-25, 60-360 yuan, 6528 7675/7750 ext. 198/508.

Lecture with projection on walking in Tibet and riding in China, Xingshecongong Bar, August 16, 8-10 pm, 6846 3550.

Sports

Football

Club football weekly schedule. August 16, European and English Premier league preview; happy hour 9 to 11 pm. August 17, 9:55 pm Leeds vs Manchester City live; August 18, 8:55 Aston Villa vs Liverpool live; 11 pm Arsenal vs Birmingham City live. For more info email bar@wanguoqxing.com

Where: Club Football Center, Red House Hotel, 10 Taipingzhuang, Chunxiu Lu, Dongzhimenwai, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6417 0497.

Health for Everyone School

Lecturer: Duan Liyan. **Topic:** physical therapy. In Chinese.

Where: meet at the entrance of the basement hall, Beijing Friendship Hospital, 95 Yong'anlu, Xuanwu District, bus 6, 15, 35, 822 to Youyi Yiyuan. **When:** August 22, 2-3:30 pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6301 4411 ext. 3482.

Yoga

Nayun Beauty Salon, 31 Xidan Beidajie, 6616 8568. 8P Tower B, Building 1, Science and Technology Convention and Exhibition Center, 6216 1758, 6216 1970.

Li Jiazi Beauty Salon, 4F Yaxing Tower, 300 meters east of Lufthansa Center, 6463 5120, 6463 5108.



Trips

Adventure of Cultural Heritage

Travel to ancient architectural heritage sites in Shanxi with Luo Zhewen, engineer and professor of National Cultural Relic Bureau.

Route: Beijing - Datong - Ying County - Wutai - Beijing. **When:** Late September. **By reservation:** limited to 12 persons. **Price:** on quotation. **Tel:** 8451 8767.

Fun Weekend Trip to Huairou

A combination of fun, nature, culture, food and drinks.

When: August 24-25. **Info:** www.yphh.com



Wood Pagoda in Ying County, Shanxi Province

Wedding Show

International Weddings

Have a great dinner while enjoying a US wedding gowns fashion show featuring the most elegant wedding fashion for the first time in China, by the "Private Label by G". Dress code: evening dress.

Show preview Dinner, Intimate Italian dinner, Chang'an Club, August 17, 6 pm, 258 yuan per person, 500 yuan per couple, 6522 9988 ext. 6662 for reservation.



International wedding show



Intimate Italian dinner

Weather

Friday August 16		Cloudy to clear Max: 32C. Min: 23C.	
Saturday August 17		Sunday August 18	
Clear to cloudy Max: 32C. Min: 21C.		Cloudy to clear Max: 30C. Min: 20C.	
Monday August 19		Tuesday August 20	
Coudy to overcast, showers Max: 29C. Min: 21C.		Overcast, showers Max: 29C. Min: 19C.	
Wednesday August 21		Thursday August 22	
Overcast to cloudy Max: 30C. Min: 20C.		Cloudy to clear Max: 31C. Min: 20C.	

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2520.

By Priscilla

Dashila Alleyways Whisper History

Residents savor last days of summer in ancient hutongs

Cultural Tour

Qianshi Hutong
Photos by Du Shan

By Jiang Zhong

First they found the well that gave Sanjing (三井 three wells) Hutong its name. Covered by a stone slab with three carved holes, it ran dry 40 years ago.

Under the shadow of the wrecker's ball, excavators have been making local headlines recently by bringing to light the hidden histories of hutong alleyways in Dashila.

Well, fancy that

Jia Fude, a retired worker, moved to the quadrangle behind the well with his family when he was 4 years old.

"The well was dug in 1556, and it produced bitter water only," he says. "None of us drank it".

Until 1964, most of the city's hutongs were dirt tracks. During windy April, the loess sand particles would blow up to shield the sun, making it appear blue. The sand would get into eyes, noses and throats.

"So the bitter water of the well was generally poured onto the dirt road to prevent sand storms.

"When I was young, my parents asked me to stay away from the well in case I fell in and drowned."

Residents drew water from the well with a basket-like vessel made of willow branches.

"The branches expand when dipped in the water to form a leak-proof vessel. The vessel could function for a long time."

Before the 1950s, the government sent water to hutong residents.

"They stored the water in a large wooden tank carried on a cart," he says. "A tap was attached to the tank to drain the water. Residents would first buy some bamboo tokens, on which were carved two Chinese characters – yi tong (一桶 one barrel).

The resident gave the man who drove the cart a token and received one barrel of water. If he wanted more, he must give the man more bamboo. The tokens functioned as gambling chips used at the gaming house."

Jia married his wife Qian in 1952. "That was the last time we used the water of the well to wash up dishes and vegetables," she says. Qian refuses to give her full name, and even refuses to introduce her family name without indicating her husband's surname first. She wants others to call her Jia Qianshi.

Her husband preserves old furniture handed down from his father. He also enjoys studying the hutongs. A map hangs on the eastern wall of his old house. Six black boxes outlined with black marker pen catch the eye.

"The black boxes indicate the areas where the hutongs have been removed," he says and points to his hutong in the map.

Last screening

The last wooden screen partition of the city stands in the courtyard of No. 7 quadrangle of Beihuoshan (北火爨) Hutong.



Korean restaurant building



Three holes mark the well.



A mirror hangs from the wooden screen partition to drive away evil spirits.

"Quadrangle screen partitions were generally made of brick or stones. The wooden partitions were for wealthy families only," says 56-year-old Li Sufen. Today, eight mops hang from nails in the screen, buckets in front.

Twenty families share the houses in the quadrangle, once the Dingsheng (鼎盛) Pawnshop during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The floor of the courtyard is 1 meter lower than the road outside the quadrangle. The entrance is also narrow.

"The pawnshop intended to reduce the chances of successful robberies by adopting these special designs," says Li.

Residents here will gladly take down the mops for visitors to snap the screen.

Narrow alley

Passing back and forth many times, one can overlook this place without the help of local residents.

The narrowest hutong in the city branches out from the crowded Zhubaoshi (珠宝市) Hutong. The 70-centimeter-wide Qianshi (钱市) Hutong was once the financial center of the capital city in the late Qing Dynasty.

The No. 6 quadrangle had a bronze plaque next to the doorplate proving the hutong's important financial status in old Beijing.

"The plaque was stolen one month ago," says Luo Xinghai, the current owner.

He points to four nails used to fix the plaque. The ancient blue paint marks the spot where the plaque was removed.

"Many quadrangles in this hutong used to have the same plaque, indicating they belonged to the Jingdu (京都) Chamber of Commerce, the largest commercial chamber of old Beijing.

"All but the one had been removed and destroyed long ago. I just lost the last one," he says.

Sunlight visits the hutong around 1 pm. It stays for about 15 minutes. Seven hutongs west to Qianshi Hutong, Baishun (百顺) Hutong preserves an ancient Korean restaurant building. The intricate stone carvings on the two-story building are surprisingly well preserved.

"They offered almost the same dishes as the Korean restaurants do today," says 80-year-old Cao Decui.

"My father loved Korean spirits. He often bought spirits at the restaurant. I had had no chance to see the interior design of the restaurant, because girls of old Beijing were forbidden to go inside pubs."

The restaurant became a brothel after the Koreans moved out in the 1920s.

The fate of the four hutongs mentioned in this article remains unclear. Each Dashila alleyway has its own history – trivial or splendid – and each faces an uncertain future. It cannot be guaranteed this article will remain reliable. Readers are advised to take this tour sooner, rather than later.

Never Mind the Malls – Here's the Boulevards

By Jiang Zhong

Beijingers always wonder about how many tree-lined roads (林荫路) remain in the city proper.

There are Chengxianjie, Nanchizi Dajie (being redone at present), Beichizi Dajie, Nanchangjie, Beichangjie, Dongji-aominxiang and Xizhimennei Dajie.

Shichahai Park and the junction with Xizhimennei Dajie witnesses a mix of modern fashion and traditional buildings.

Forget the messy traffic and overcrowded sidewalks. Get into the back streets, where the workers are removing the old houses.

Photographer Shi Jingping visits the increasing ruins nearly every day to document the remains and record the last few old Beijingers with his viewfinder.

"It is impossible for modern architects to recover the splendor of the lost old buildings," says Shi. "The traditional buildings and lifestyles are disappearing from the capital city. I just want to do what I can to record this historic culture for the people of today and tomorrow."

After the old buildings, the tree-lined roads here will also be demolished. The uncontrolled expansion of city traffic has already compromised its elegance.

Xizhimennei Dajie ends at its junction with two other tree-lined roads at Xinkou Beidajie. On the opposite side, Shichahai Park preserves existing ancient splendors but also tries to add new fashions.

More bars are moving to this area



Beichangjie



Dongjiaominxiang



to escape the "Car Blocked District" as city folk joke. Here they expend energy on showing their cultural connection with old fashions. Red lanterns, traditional porcelain and elegant Chinese characters have been adopted to adorn the exterior and interior of the bars.

At Zhongguo Chanmao (禅猫 Chinese Buddhist Cat), tourists are dying cloth and sewing Chinese garments for themselves. Most are treated to a hearty meal and scenery of the lake on Chinese traditional paddleboats.

Students are producing what they call a "DV" (digital video) by the lake. Residents play a traditional gambling game. Workers are updating the antiques market.

Guozijianjie is said to be the most beautiful street of Beijing. The tree-lined road here should be visited after 6 pm when the tourists have gone to the restaurants. Residents become masters of the streets again. They sweep off the smell of car exhaust with their palm-leaf fans and set dining tables outside the quadrangles.

At the same time, the once called "Foreigners' Hutong" – Dongjiaominxiang – in the east of Tian'anmen Square treats Beijingers to Chinese food in western architectural style restaurants.

Not far from "Foreigners' Hutong" in the north, Nanchangjie and Beichangjie by the Forbidden City offer a chance to admire imperial splendor at dusk, a fitting finale to a frantic tree-lined road tour.

Leisurely Getaway

Spas Bubble across Big City

By Jiao Pei

The long and ancient history of spas can be traced back through ancient Chinese history to well, er, about 2001. That is, they began opening here in Beijing about a year ago.

Beijingers are fast learners and translated words for "day spa", "club spa", "hotel spa" and "destination spa" are fast making appearances in local rags.

Where to find spas:
St. Regis (国际俱乐部) Spa & Club

Water from natural hot springs 1,400 meters underground. Jurlique skin care, the official licensed merchandise of the Sydney Olympics. Add: -1F, 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie. Open: 24 hours (physical treatment from 9am-midnight). Tel: 6460 6688 ext. 2837.

Oriental Mien Spa Club

Add: Room 104, 1F of the red building, Building 3, Soho modern City, 88 Jianguolu. Tel: 6567 6698

Yihui City Women (怡辉都市女性) Club

Add: Boning Garden, 6 Zaoxing Beili, Maizidian Jie,



Chaoyang District (200 meters east of the Great Wall Hotel). Tel: 6507 6093/6245.

Elana (伊丽安娜) Spa

Add: Building 17, Block 3, Anhuili, Yayuncun, Chaoyang District. Open: 9am-10pm. Tel: 6497 9689.

Chaoyue Kongjian Yiren Women World (超越空间伊人女性世界)

Add: 2F, inside the no. 50 courtyard, Waiguan Xiejie, Chaoyang District, bus 123 to Anhuili. Open: 10am-10pm. Tel: 6427 4696.

Baizi Women World (百姿女性世界)

Add: Room 802, Jiahuiyuan, Huao Center, 31 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District. Tel: 6843 3918. Add: Room 0105, Building 2, Soho New Town, 88 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District. Tel: 8655 3098.